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Dallaglio misses England opener

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will start their international campaign this season without Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain. Dallaglio twisted his knee playing for Warrington on Saturday and will miss the World Cup qualifying game against The Netherlands in Huddersfield on Saturday. Leaving Martin Johnson to lead the side for the first time.

Party prepares to block Livingstone

Blair seeks mayor from big business

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, ROLAND WATSON AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London.

As the London Labour Party took the first step to prevent Ken Livingstone being chosen as its official candidate for the election in 2000, it emerged that the Prime Minister was searching well beyond the ranks of politicians. He has told colleagues that he wants someone who has proved that he or she can run things.

Mr Blair has studied the role and performance of American mayors and had talks with Mayor Rudy Giuliani of New York six weeks ago. Many American mayors made their names running big organisations before entering city politics, such as Mayor Richard Riordan of Los Angeles.

The disclosure that Mr Blair is casting the net wider will come as a blow to people who have been floated as contenders, such as Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, and Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament.

Mr Blair is not believed to have a preferred candidate, but people of the stature of Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, would fit his job description.



"So it's not mayor Livingstone, I presume?"

also operate across Labour's local government structure.

There is a widespread view that Mr Livingstone will be regarded as beyond the pale because of his criticism of the leadership.

But Mr Livingstone insisted that he was no "fringe" or a threat to the leadership, and he suggested that he was backed by the vast majority of London Labour members.

He was proud to stand on his record. "Virtually everything I did as leader of the GLC has now become official party policy - pro-public transport, democratic control of the police, we have homosexuals in the Cabinet, we have over 100 women MPs, even negotiating with Sinn Fein." Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, denied the party hierarchy was trying to control the selection process. "Given that there are so many elections and so many candidates, it is very clear that what the Labour Government is doing is devolving power."

There were other Labour Party members besides Mr Livingstone who would like to stand for Mayor of London. Members did not have to be famous to make good candidates.

Peter Riddell, page 12



In the pink Peter Young arriving at court and, above right, as he was known at work



Whitehall slow to take own advice over bug

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

NINE Whitehall departments and agencies will be named today as the worst prepared inside the Government to cope with the "high-risk" list of those whose computer systems may not recognise the date change from 1999 to 2000, are the Department of Trade and Industry, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Office, the Environment Agency, the Medicines Control Agency, the NHS Estates and the Office of National Statistics.

According to analysis of the departments' own plans, computer experts believe the nine are struggling to meet their own targets, are slipping behind deadlines and have not even started programmes of spot checks on their systems.

Delays are likely to cost a total of up to £10 billion, as opposed to the £3 billion forecast by Tony Blair last March.

But Taskforce 2000, an independent company which has analysed information published by Whitehall, fears the picture could be even worse in the wider public sector, with emergency services under threat, and possible disruption of nuclear power stations, the Post Office, broadcasting and the utility companies.

In a separate report yesterday the Audit Commission also warned that a number of local authorities and NHS Trusts were lagging behind in their preparations to deal with the bug. Andrew Foster, the director, said he would publish a league table of the offending bodies in the spring if action was not taken.

Banker has his day in court as a woman

BY PAUL DURMAN

A LEADING City investment manager dressed for the occasion when he appeared in a London court on fraud charges yesterday. Peter Young arrived wearing lipstick and makeup, a calf-length skirt and high heels - and asked to be known as Elizabeth.

Mr Young, 40, was formerly a sober-suited fund manager at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. He and three other men are charged with a conspiracy to defraud the trustees or investors of three Deutsche Morgan Grenfell investment funds, which at one point held £1.3 billion on behalf of 180,000 investors. At a preliminary hearing at the City of London Magistrates' Court, the four were released on bail until March 15.

The problems at Morgan Grenfell two years ago caused Deutsche Bank, the firm's German parent, to inject £180 million into the funds. Subsequent compensation payments to investors have cost the bank a further £200 million.

Mr Young is charged with Erik Langaker and Jan Helge Johnsen. The fourth defendant, Stewart Armer, another former Morgan Grenfell fund manager, was not in court yesterday because he is currently studying in Chile.

£10m aid for Honduras

Britain and France committed £10 million each to a new trust fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua to service their debts as they begin rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

American aid is now arriving in the stricken region and relief officials said that help was finally reaching even the most inaccessible areas. Page 17

Soldiers face court martial for talking about TA cuts

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

BRITAIN'S 170,000 soldiers have been warned that they will face a court martial if they leak secret information about planned cuts in the Territorial Army.

The edict has been issued in an letter from General Sir Michael Walker, the Commander-in-Chief of Land Command, who said that even "idle chatter on social occasions" about the cuts would imperil military careers.

But his letter, leaked to *The Times*, was immediately denounced as an "extraordinary attempt" to stifle the argument about the future shape of the nation's military reserve. Former officers also protested about its political tone, claiming they detected in it the hand of Labour's spin-doctors - the letter complains

Walker: "I shall not hesitate to use full powers" that breaches of confidence have embarrassed ministers and that press revelations were eroding trust between military chiefs and "our political masters". One TA insider said: "I have never seen that sort of overtly political wording in a military document."

General Walker, who is in charge of cutting the TA's strength from 59,000 to 40,000 soldiers, says in his letter to commanders: "I want to make it quite plain that I regard any such leaks as very serious disciplinary offences. You are to ensure that those under your command, both regular and TA, understand the gravity with which I regard such betrayals of trust."

Queen's Regulations forbid the disclosure of "official business" and in a direct threat that offending officers and men face being dismissed from the service, the General adds: "I shall not hesitate to use the full powers of these rules if individuals fail to observe them."

He also orders his troops to avoid "deliberate contacts with the press or politicians" and in an echo of the wartime injunction against careless talk, he complains that many disclosures about possible targets of the cuts arise from gossip.

The General's letter is dated October 26 - the day that details of his blueprint for a slimmed-down TA were presented to General Sir Robin Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, and immediately leaked to the press. The general's letter is now itself the subject of a leak investigation by the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police.

According to leaks, which persist in spite of the General's letter, 180 TA bases are to be sold to raise £42 million. All the English TA county regiments will be merged into a few regional units. Royal and county names scrapped.



Walker: "I shall not hesitate to use full powers" that breaches of confidence have embarrassed ministers and that press revelations were eroding trust between military chiefs and "our political masters". One TA insider said: "I have never seen that sort of overtly political wording in a military document."

Cash hope for family of Bentley

THE Home Secretary is considering using his discretion to compensate the family of Derek Bentley, whose conviction for murdering a policeman in 1952 was quashed earlier this year.

Jack Straw's announcement last night came after he met Bentley's niece and brother in private at the House of Commons.

Afterwards, he said: "I have enormous sympathy with them. The basis on which Derek Bentley's conviction was reversed means that the case is not eligible for the compensation scheme. I do have some discretion to make ex gratia payments in certain cases. I have agreed to consider this."

Bentley, 19, was executed for the murder of PC Sidney Miles in 1953. Christopher Craig, who fired the fatal shot was spared because he was too young to hang.

Boycott stumped by French conviction

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE reputation of Geoffrey Boycott was in ruins yesterday as a French court found him guilty, for the second time, of beating up his former girlfriend.

His immediate decision to appeal will bring his legal costs to almost £500,000 and he faces the loss of lucrative commentating work.

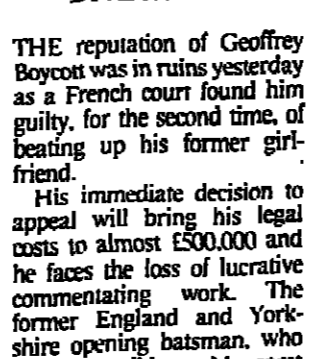
The former England and Yorkshire opening batsman, who denied striking Margaret Moore, said he was disappointed but not surprised. During the case in Grasse, Provence, he clashed with court officials and described the process as a French farce. The judge, Dominique Haumont-Daumais, said his outbursts had "tarnished the image of the perfect gentleman" which he sought to portray.

Boycott, 58, was given a three-month suspended sentence, fined £5,300 and ordered to pay symbolic damages of £1 (10p) to Mrs Moore.

Speaking from Pakistan, where he is commentating, Boycott said: "When I went to see *Fatal Attraction* I never thought it could happen to me."

By contrast, Mrs Moore was delighted. "The last two years have been completely devastating and upsetting. He beat me and attacked me and the French justice system has recognised that," she said.

The court had previously convicted Boycott in his absence and he flew in 13 witnesses for the appeal. He argued that Mrs Moore hit her face when she fell.



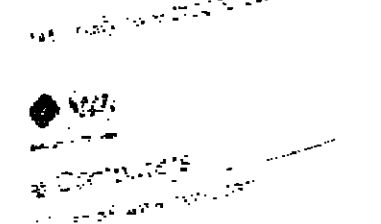
Boycott: outbursts did not endear him to judge



Boycott's temper, page 3

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Redwood must boldly go where no alien has gone before

There is something admirable about John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary. Week in, week out, there he is at the Dispatch Box, hammering away. Sometimes poised, sometimes disjointed, sometimes on-target and sometimes off-beam, he sprays statistics, arguments and warnings of industrial Armageddon — kicking, undismayed, at the wall of confidence erected by a formidable administration and its publicity machine. New Labour appear to have

an army of advisers and publicists; Mr Redwood seems almost alone. Touring the broadcasting studios and Press Gallery offices with his tall and indefatigable lady assistant, Nicki, in tow (now, when are you going to write something nice about John?), the tireless Tory Vulcan and his loyal lieutenant remind us of an Alien space captain and his Earthling sidekick, on a mission to explain his extraterrestrial logic-system in this quirky corner of the galaxy. Yesterday, in an Opposition

debate on problems in industry, Redwood kept going on about "clusters". Asteroid clusters? Meteorite clusters? Captain Redwood had encountered clusters, he said, in the Thames Valley and the City of London. He was in favour of clusters but feared that under this Government they may be breaking up. He fears that under this Government everything may be breaking up. Accused of taking a gloomy view he protested "I'm not arguing today that all of British industry is going to close" — but left



POLITICAL SKETCH

us suspecting that he could well be arguing this tomorrow. Relaxed, self-confident, playful and controversial, Peter Mandelson, the witsome Trade and Industry Secretary, was having none of this. Indeed his backbench colleague, Helen Southworth (Warrington S) told Redwood that he, not Mr Mandelson, was

the cause of falling investment and factory closures. She thinks the Tories have spread such alarm and despondency that confidence has collapsed. Mr Redwood looked chuffed at the thought that he and the Earthling lady might have done this single-handedly. Others looked doubtful. What leads us to guess that

the Southworth hypothesis has limited explanatory power? But then what does count as an explanation in new Labour's logic-system, a metaphysics as weird as anything Mr Redwood brings? This logic, too, is alien to human intelligence and may be traced to the Planet Vanilla, from which Tony Blair is being controlled. In Labour's version of the Universe, all time exists already: the past, the present and the future. Let me explain. At Health Questions earlier, Frank Dobson remarked: "I hope people will welcome the £25m extra for social services, which the Chancellor announced next week." The italics are mine. So, according to Mr Dobson, the announcement not only will be, it already is — and was. This may be the key to understanding why ministers keep announcing "initiatives" again and again, "revealing" the already-revealed, as though it were new. The metaphysics at which the answer hints make every announcement, whether already made

or in the future, exist already. If so, one can recall the past just as one can recall the future. "I'm prohibited from announcing my decisions," Dobson told the Tories' Shaun Woodward (Whitney), who was asking about the future of Oxfordshire hospitals, "until I've reached those decisions." The decision's already there, you see — ahead. It's just that Mr Dobson hasn't reached it yet. Truly, as our Leader, Tony, has said, "there's no going back from the road to the future."

100 attacks on staff at offenders' centre

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

YOUNG children at Britain's first institution for child offenders have assaulted staff on almost a hundred occasions since it opened seven months ago. Twenty-six members of staff at the Medway Training Centre, run by Group 4, were referred for medical treatment after the assaults. In eleven cases criminal charges have been brought against the children at the centre at Rochester in Kent which holds offenders aged 12-14 at a cost of £2,400 a week each. Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary managing the centre, has also been "fined" £5,869 for failing to comply with the contract in the first three months of its operation. MFs were told last night. "The centre has also been hit by 14 incidents of concerted indiscipline involving more than two trainees, according to Commons written answers published yesterday. In three cases the incident has led to criminal charges against children. Two trainees broke through the perimeter fence of the centre but were pursued by staff and quickly returned to the premises. The answer does not reveal how far they had managed to escape before being recaptured. Thirty-five staff have left the centre, including two senior managers. One of them was Janice Richardson, the head of



The secure training centre has 100 staff for 40 offenders

education, who had been with Rebound for less than seven months. The latest details about what has occurred at the centre follows a disturbance in June which caused £5,300 of damage and the disclosure that only 30 per cent of the 100 staff had previous experience working with children. Last night Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, demanded an immediate investigation into the running for the child jail. He said: "The secure training centre is in danger of becoming a highly expensive failure. A catalogue of disturbing facts indicates that it is not working. There seems to be an atmosphere of violence which is incompatible with constructive work with young offenders." Mr Beith said he was

writing to Jack Straw calling for an inquiry. "I am not convinced there is a future for this experiment. Labour opposed these centres in opposition as 'colleges of crime'. It is time they looked to see if their prediction is accurate." A statement from Rebound said that the centre was dealing with the most difficult and disruptive young people in the country. "Given the background of the youngsters, it is not surprising that there have been some incidents of misbehaviour at the centre. Regrettably there have been some assaults on staff but the incidence of these has been much reduced recently." The statement said the assaults ranged from pushing and shoving to a broken nose. None of the staff referred for medical treatment needed to go to hospital. It said it was

amending staff training to deal with the specific task of managing violent behaviour by youngsters. Rebound admitted that the staff turnover had been high and said it was currently increasing its management team at the centre. The centre's 100 staff look after a maximum of 40 children. It is the first of a planned network designed to hold young offenders aged 12-14 who have been given a secure training order. The courts have imposed 85 orders since April for offences including affray, arson, dangerous driving, driving without a licence, possession of knives and violent disorder. Children given the order, lasting a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years, serve half their time in the centre and the other half in the community under supervision of social workers. The order can be imposed when a person has committed three previous imprisonable offences and broken a supervision order. Many of the children sent to the centre have long histories of criminal and antisocial behaviour, poor school records and truancy. Medway is currently full and has a waiting list. The Government has awarded two further contracts for secure training centres, one at Onley in Northamptonshire and one in Co Durham.

Lords call to make cannabis legal for pain relief

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

DOCTORS should be permitted to prescribe cannabis for medical use, a House of Lords committee is to propose today. The peers will urge the Government to act swiftly to lift the ban, so that thousands of people can take the drug to alleviate pain. Although the proposals from the Lords Science and Technology Committee will undoubtedly be supported by many sufferers, they are unlikely to secure the backing of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The Government is sensitive to the whole issue and any relaxation of the law is unlikely in the short term. Under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1985, cannabis is a Schedule One drug and all use is banned, except for licensed research. The Lords Science and Technology Committee recommends that it be reclassified as a "Schedule Two" drug. The committee admits that there is no conclusive proof that cannabis has medical value but says there is enough anecdotal evidence that it can be used to treat multiple sclerosis and particular types of pain. It says that trials should begin at once on cannabis as a treatment for MS and chronic pain and calls for research into ways of administering it other than smoking. George Howarth, a Home Office minister, rejected the recommendation and insisted that further clinical trials were needed. The Government would not be prepared to countenance any move to allow prescription before clinical trials and safety tests have been completed, he said. The committee argues that the regulations should be relaxed immediately on compassionate grounds. The tests could last for some time and it could be years before any cannabis was available for use. Without it, 85,000 MS sufferers would continue to face the unpleasant symptoms of their disease without relief. The committee rejects



Cannabis plants being grown for licensed research

claims that allowing cannabis for medical purposes will lead to further legislation. The peers say that their changes would prevent sufferers risking prosecution and would help the police concentrate on people using the drug for illegal recreational uses. Lord Perry of Walton, the committee chairman and former professor of pharmacology, said: "We have seen enough evidence to convince us that a doctor might legitimately want to prescribe can-

nabis to relieve pain, or the symptoms of MS, and that the criminal law ought not to stand in the way. "Far from being a step towards general legislation, our recommendation would make the ban on recreational use easier to enforce. Above all, it would show compassion to patients who currently risk prosecution to get help." The British Medical Association backed the committee's call for clinical trials but opposed rescheduling the drug.

Straw bans prison pay protest

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

PRISON officers were yesterday forbidden to hold a nationwide pay protest, in the first court action this Government has taken against a trade union. The 23,000-strong Prison Officers' Association had planned branch meetings at all 135 jails in England and Wales at 7.30am today in protest at a 2.7 per cent pay offer. Jack Straw took legal action on advice from the Prison Service that the meetings would disrupt the unlocking of prisoners, delay court appearances and the start of workshops. The Home Secretary invoked a law introduced by his Conservative predecessor,

Michael Howard, and in the High Court Mr Justice Ferris granted an injunction banning the meetings. He said it was justified because of the damage that would be caused to the Prison Service. Mr Justice Ferris said the Home Office was entitled to the injunction at short notice because it had an arguable case that the meetings breached the 1994 Criminal Justice Act and Public Order Act barring the POA from taking industrial action. Mark Healy, chairman of the POA, accused the Government of using Conservative tactics to "sabotage" legitimate pay negotiations: "Sabotage is not too strong a word to use. We are appalled at the actions not only of the prison department but also of the Labour Government using

Tory anti-union laws which they are currently negotiating to repeal, to prevent us holding the meetings." He denied that the meetings had been planned to cause major disruption. He said they had been timed for when prisoners were still locked up. A Prison Service spokesman said it was not opposed to the POA holding meetings, but that it should be with the agreement of governors. "Governors have been offering alternative times to branches so as to minimise disruption to the running of jails," the spokesman said. It is the first time the Prison Service has taken action at a national level to prevent the POA taking industrial action, and precedes a union conference tomorrow.

Dublin puts out flags for Duke

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

UNION flags flew from official buildings in Dublin yesterday to mark the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh, the most senior member of the Royal Family to visit the Irish Republic since the country secured independence from Britain. Prince Philip, who was in Ireland on business related to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, met the Irish President and Prime Minister and toured many buildings once central to Britain's control. He arrived by RAF helicopter, landing in Aras an Uachtairin, the former vice-regal lodge now used as home to the president. Mary McAleese, The visit is being widely seen as a precursor to a visit by the Queen who joins Mrs McAleese in Flanders today to

unveil a memorial tower to the thousands of Irishmen who died in the First World War. The Duke and the President arrived in Dublin Castle to jointly launch a millennium project for young people in Northern Ireland and the Republic. Mrs McAleese said recently she was "anxious" that the Queen visit Ireland but sources said that it was unlikely to happen before the next millennium. The Queen was yesterday invited to attend millennium celebrations in Bethlehem, which is now under Palestinian control. The Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat used an historic trip to the West Bank by the Duke of Kent to issue the formal invitation. There is diplomatic speculation that the Pope will also attend.

Pupils may sign school contracts

By Victoria Fletcher

PUPILS aged as young as five will be asked to sign a contract with their school promising to behave, work hard and not to vandalise school buildings, the Government announced yesterday. Parents will also be asked to sign a pledge with the school, promising that they will ensure their child aims up for lessons, does his or her homework and that they will attend parents' evenings. The contracts, to be used in every school by September, are part of a Government plan to make parents and pupils aware of their role in raising education standards. In return schools will sign their part of the contract, which outlines the services they must provide for parents and pupils. This will include

keeping parents informed about their child's progress and keep the marking of homework up to date. Although schools will be legally obliged to offer the contracts from next September, parents and pupils will not be forced to sign them. Moreover, the contracts are not legally binding: any party who broke their promises would face little more than an angry letter or meeting. Charles Clarke, the Schools Minister, said that he did not think there would be many parents who would not want to sign the agreement. He said: "The vast majority of schools want this. I do not think parents in poor areas will not sign up to this and have no assumption that parents will not want to do it."

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Boycott and the temper that caught him out

Cricket veteran found guilty again by a French judge unmoved by his outbursts, reports Ben Macintyre

THE French judge who found Geoffrey Boycott guilty of assaulting his former girlfriend was swayed by his bad-tempered court outbursts, she said yesterday. Dominique Haumont-Daumas said that the cricket veteran, who told one prosecution lawyer to "shut up" during the hearing last month, had not helped his case.

Boycott said that he was "hurt and disappointed" after the court in Grasse, near Nice, sentenced him to a three-month suspended prison term and a fine of 50,000 francs (£5,300) for assaulting Margaret Moore in a Riviera hotel two years ago. Ms Moore was also awarded a single French franc in symbolic damages.

The former England and Yorkshire player received precisely the same sentence when he was tried "in absentia" last January. He demanded a retrial and has since spent an estimated £250,000 trying to clear his name.

Madame Haumont-Daumas, the president of the Grasse court, wrote in her judgment: "The accused did not hesitate to interrupt Ms Moore's barrister, thereby undermining the image of the perfect gentleman which so many of his old friends and witnesses had come to support."

More importantly, Madame Haumont-Daumas — who pointedly professed to know little and caring less about cricket — concluded that the bruises to Ms Moore's face had been caused by "deliberate blows", and not by falling on the carpeted floor of the hotel bedroom, as Boycott had claimed.

"His arguments did not support the theory of an accidental fall," she wrote in her seven-page judgment. Speaking by telephone from Pakistan, where he is commenting on Australia's cricket tour, Boycott, 58, said: "When I went to see *Fatal Attraction* I never thought it could happen to me," in a reference to the



Moore and the judgment: "If I get a cheque, I'll frame it"

During the long court hearing last month, Boycott was unable to control his temper. He complained bitterly that he had understood little of the court proceedings since these had been conducted in French.

After the verdict, Boycott took a swipe at Madame Haumont-Daumas, whose elegance and irony could hardly have been more in contrast to the Yorkshireman's habitually blunt and aggressive manner. "Obviously I am very disappointed with the court's decision, but in view of the way the trial was conducted, I suppose it is not a total surprise. In my view, we clearly disproved every allegation but obviously not in the view of the French magistrate," he said.

Ms Moore was present in court to hear the verdict and appeared to be revelling in the second public humiliation of her former lover. "I don't think I will get my one franc, because he is a little tight-fisted," she said outside the courtroom. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send a writ."

Ms Moore and Rachel Swinglehurst, Boycott's current girlfriend who attended the hearing, gave rival mini-press conferences outside the courtroom. "The verdict is outrageous. Geoffrey will prove his innocence next time, no matter what it costs," Ms Swinglehurst said.

Boycott last night told the BBC: "I was disappointed, but after the way the court hearing was conducted, I'm not all together surprised. My evidence was good and witnesses had excellent first-hand knowledge of the type of injury that can be involved even by an accidental blow to the head."

He said that he had not been able to speak properly with his lawyers, but said an immediate appeal had been lodged. "I think when people say you must defend your name and you must go to court, even in another country, they don't know how difficult that is. You are on a hiding to nothing."

"Obviously with an appeal pending and another hearing, I have got to be a little careful of what I say about what I really think."

Boycott was yesterday in Pakistan commenting on Australia's tour for the independent production company Trans World International. It provides coverage of the major Pakistani, Indian and West Indian cricketing events to British broadcasters.

"Everybody is quite happy with Geoffrey Boycott. He would not be commenting if people didn't want him," said a spokeswoman. "He is employed on a tour-by-tour basis. As future tours come up, decisions will be made as to whether he will commentate for us."

However, *The Sun* announced that it had terminated its contract with him. A spokesman said: "Our readers would find repugnant the idea of us employing someone with a conviction for violence against a woman."



Dominique Haumont-Daumas arriving at the Palais de Justice in Grasse yesterday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Stone witness arrested

A key witness in the Michael Stone murder trial has been arrested after claiming in a newspaper article that he had had sex with Barry Thompson, arrested in Basildon, Essex, but released on police bail.

Thompson's evidence at trial at Maidstone Crown Court, concerning a conversation with Stone in jail before he was convicted of the murder of Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, 6, and the attempted murder of Josie Kent, then 9, at Chilwell, Kent, in 1990.

Meale cleared

Alan Meale, the Junior Law Society's president, was yesterday cleared of breaching the Law Society's rules. But Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Goff, said that the Committee of the Law Society was unable to clear Mr Meale as a judge of the Law Society's conduct.

Farmers seek aid

Farmers are seeking aid from the Government to help them cope with the impact of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) rules. The Government has agreed to provide £100 million to help farmers with the costs of complying with the new rules.

Judges named

The names of the judges who will sit on the new Criminal Appeal Committee have been announced. The committee will be made up of three judges, including Lord Goff and Lord Hope.

Mobile verdict

The Court of Appeal has ruled that a mobile phone can be used as evidence in a criminal trial. The court said that a mobile phone can be used to prove that a person was in a certain place at a certain time.

Opera petition

A petition has been signed by thousands of people in support of the opera *La Traviata*. The petition is asking the Government to fund the opera, which is being performed in a small town in the north of England.

Briton taken hostage in mine raid 'used as pack animal'

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITON taken hostage by suspected UNITA guerrillas after a raid on a diamond mine in Angola was being used as a "pack animal" along with three colleagues to march looted goods deep into the bush. Twenty-one people, including two Britons, were killed in the raid.

DiamondWorks, the company for which Jason Pope, 26, from Devon, worked, said yesterday that it had been in radio contact with the hostages until Monday when the hostages were marched outside the range of security handsets they had taken with them. "What is puzzling is that they allowed their hostages to communicate with us for so long. This gives us some hope that they will be decently treated," the company said.

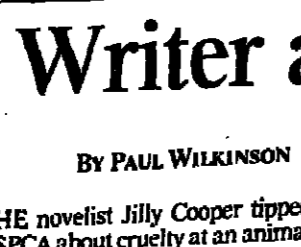
The Britons who died in the attack on Sunday were Alan Thomas, the director of the mine, and David Boutle, head of mining operations. Mr Boutle's father Chris, 50, said his son understood the risks of working there. David Boutle, 26, had given up his place at Oxford University where he was to read history for his ambition to mine for diamonds in Africa.

Chris Boutle of Bracknell, Berkshire, said: "He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure. He was very bright, extremely intelligent and determined. It is such a dreadful waste."

The other Briton killed in the assault, Mr Thomas, 51, had worked in the diamond mining industry for 12 years. His son Mark said at the family home in Liversedge, West Yorkshire: "I don't think you would ever find a more principled, hardworking, honest person in your entire life. He was very strong willed."

Mr Thomas was aware of the dangers posed by working in Angola, his son said. "It was the nature of the job. Fighting has been going on in Angola for quite a long time."

A fourth Briton, Robin Barton, 52, managed to escape unhurt and is now in Luanda. Bruce Walsham, chief executive of the Canadian mining company DiamondWorks, was flying out to the mine to meet senior government, military and local officials to try to secure the release of the hostages. A company spokesman said: "The company will take all necessary steps to ensure that the missing expatriate personnel are safely returned to their homes and families as quickly as possible."



David Boutle, left, and Alan Thomas: killed by raiders



David Boutle, left, and Alan Thomas: killed by raiders

Writer alerted RSPCA to cruelty

BY PAUL WILKINSON


THE novelist Jilly Cooper tipped off the RSPCA about cruelty at an animal sanctuary she supported after hearing rumours during a book signing. The writer was told of appalling conditions at the Tether's End sanctuary in Leeds, where she was the patron, as she visited a bookshop in the city. Her readers complained that a parrot thought to be 90 years old, dogs, monkeys, foxes and a cockatoo were being mistreated.

RSPCA inspectors and police later raided the sanctuary and arrested its 82-year-old proprietor, Norma Clutterbuck. Yesterday, magistrates in Leeds imposed a life ban on her keeping any wild or exotic life ban on her keeping any wild or exotic animals and birds and all reptiles. She was also fined £1,000 and conditionally discharged for two years for each of four counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. The charges related to two marmoset monkeys and two foxes. Clutterbuck and her husband, George, 96, had run the sanctuary for 30 years when it was raided in July last year. Tony Kelbrick, for the prosecution, said investigators had found 12 dogs in kennels in the living room, and in a darkened, 7ft square room four monkeys, a cockatoo, foxes and a parrot in small cages. The floor was covered with excrement and stale food.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

Millions

Shocked survivor rejects honour

Horrors seen by...

Simon de...

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Millions expected to observe the two-minute silence

Supermarkets, banks, airports and factories will come to a standstill at 11am today, reports Richard Ford

MILLIONS of people will observe the two-minute Armistice silence today marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Supermarkets, airports, railway stations, banks and factories will come to a halt at 11am. The courts, radio and television stations are among many organisations marking the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in tribute to British servicemen and women who died for their country.

British Airways has rescheduled a Concorde flight so that it does not clash with the silence, and no BA aircraft will push away from stands or start their engines from 10.58am to 11.02am. A spokesman for the Royal British Legion estimated that three quarters of the country, about 43 million people, would observe the silence. It is the fourth year in which the Legion has campaigned for the silence on November 11 and it has won the backing of all three main political parties.

Tony Blair said: "The Legion's campaign has been a magnificent success and reminds both young and old of the sacrifices that have been made in the past on behalf of our nation." Debate in the main chamber of the Commons will stop at the invitation of the Speaker, and Commons committees and other offices will observe the silence. Meetings at 350 local councils will also be halted.

Staff at all main line railway stations will observe the silence and passengers will be invited to join in the commemoration. London Transport said that staff and passengers would mark the silence at Underground stations and London buses would, if practical, pull over to the side of the road. The silence will also be observed at the Nissan car plant in Sunderland; at Toyota's plant in Burnaston, Derbyshire, it will be left to employees whether to participate. One production line there will stop to allow workers to observe the silence.

The Post Office has left the decision to individuals. "We leave it to the personal feelings of each employee. We make it quite clear that anyone who wishes to observe the silence is welcome to do so," a spokesman said. A ceremony of Remembrance will be held at the Post Office's head office in London to commemorate employees who gave their lives, including members of the Post Office Rifles who served in the 1914-1918 war.

Many firms will cease production for the two minutes, including British Aerospace, Cadbury Schweppes, National Power, PowerGen and Zeneca, the pharmaceutical company. The start and finish of the silence will be announced in stores including Tesco, Safeway, Sainsbury's, Asda, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, McDonald's and Burger King.

Work on the Millennium Dome will halt and the Legion urged construction workers across the country to suspend work. The Legion approached construction firms after complaints last year that building work spoiled the silence. Ian Townsend, secretary general of the Legion, said: "From 57 per cent observance when we launched our campaign in 1995 to the kind of response we saw last year shows that people from all walks of life all over the country have welcomed this simple form of remembrance. It introduces a poignant annual moment of reflection into their lives." Former prisoners of war yesterday called on the Government to refund pay worth £18 million deducted while they were held in German and Italian camps during the Second World War.

Letters, page 21

Shocked survivor rejects honour

Horrors seen by ambulance driver linger, reports Simon de Bruxelles

WINIFRED DEACON has never forgotten the horrors she witnessed as an ambulance driver on the Western Front in 1915. The experience affected her so deeply that this week the great-great-grandmother from Paington in Devon turned down the offer of France's highest award, the *Légion d'honneur*. She was nicknamed Tiny when she was posted to serve in France with the Army Service Corps in 1915 at the age of 17. Despite standing just 4ft 9in, she drove a two-tonne Albin ambulance as well as a Ford staff car.

She was nicknamed Tiny when she was posted to serve in France with the Army Service Corps in 1915 at the age of 17. Despite standing just 4ft 9in, she drove a two-tonne Albin ambulance as well as a Ford staff car. She met her future husband, who was then serving with intelligence, when she was assigned to drive him around. She vividly recalls the awful sights that greeted her on the Western Front: "I had never seen a dead body in my life. When I saw them in hundreds laid out in fields, I can't tell people the



Winifred Deacon, pictured right aged 18, saw too much suffering on the Western Front to accept French honour

stench there was. There was nothing much to be buried in some of the war graves." Mrs Deacon twice suffered heavy shelling and on the second occasion was buried for six hours before being rescued. Her hearing was permanently damaged by the experience. But it was the suffering she saw around her that hurt most. She said: "It is impossible to make anyone realise the mental and physical ordeal those men and boys went through, not just for hours but years, while the men who made the profits from the industry of arms, weapons, tanks, guns and gas never went near one bullet."

"I saw a lot of shell-shocked soldiers. They were broken men. I was driving a captain once when he had an attack and shook uncontrollably. I stopped at a hospital to get him a mug of tea and lots of brandy. "I threw my three medals from the Great War into the dustbin when the Second World War started." Women were called on for the first time in war because every available able-bodied man was needed to fight. Thousands volunteered to serve as ambulance drivers ferrying the wounded from frontline casualty clearing stations to makeshift hospitals. The massive number of casualties and the confusion of war meant little concession could be made for them.



Winifred Deacon, pictured right aged 18, saw too much suffering on the Western Front to accept French honour

Mrs Deacon said: "We lived as the men did, putting up with bombing, rats and lice. It was difficult to keep warm with no heat, two blankets and the overcoats. "Our billet was just a hut with corrugated iron and hessian nailed on wooden struts. Rats gnawed holes in it in search of food. "We were up at 6.30am to get ready and rarely came back before night-time. I went anywhere and everywhere: Etaples, Calais, Dieppe, Rouen and Ypres. Where the officers had to go I had to find a way." Laurent Lemarchand, a spokesman for the French Embassy, said that about 160 veterans who had fought on French soil had been awarded the rank *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*, with another

75 under consideration. He said: "The intention is to honour the survivors of the First World War, to celebrate in a dignified way the eightieth anniversary of the Armistice and to make sure, with the century coming to a close, that the memory of these great fighters is not lost to the oncoming generations. "It is a duty of gratitude and a duty of memory, both to the people who have survived and those who have not. "It is an important concern in France, as it is in Britain, that things are not lost as time passes." He said he was not aware of anyone else turning down the honour as Mrs Deacon has done, but added: "It is her own privilege to decline."

Lost Sassoon war poem is found in letter

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PREVIOUSLY unpublished war poem by Siegfried Sassoon has emerged among a collection of letters in an American university archive. It was unearthed by Patrick Campbell, a lecturer in English and performing arts at Middlesex University, while researching a critical study of Sassoon's poetry. The rediscovered poem is entitled *Testament*, which Dr Campbell said, was not to be confused with *A Testament* of 1916, "a nostalgic evocation of the English landscape, written before Sassoon had seen much frontline action". *Testament* was composed during the later stages of the war.

TESTAMENT
*For the last time I say —
War is not glorious
Though lads march
out, superb and fall vic-
torious —
Scrapping like de-
mons, suffering like
slaves.
And crowned by peace,
the sunlight on their
graves.
You swear we crush the
Beast; I say we fight
Beasts; men lost their
landmarks in the night
And met in gloom to
grapple, stab and kill
Yelling their fetis-
hnames of Good and Ill
That have been
shamed in history.
O my heart,
Be still; you have cried
your cry; you have played
your part.*

News of the find comes days after another unknown poem by Sassoon, *To a Citizen-Soldier*, 1916, was found by Jean Moorcroft Wilson, his biographer, at Cambridge University Library. Dr Campbell's discovery was attached to a letter, dated May 9, 1918, to Lady Ottoline Morrell, a friend with whom Sassoon corresponded regularly during the conflict. The lecturer explained: "Now on his way back to the front for what would be the last time — an accidental bullet from one of his own men ended his involvement two months later — Sassoon disparaged the behaviour of his fellow-subalterns on the troop ship where the atmosphere of cocktails and

card-playing in the officer's saloons was beyond words. Nonetheless, in sentiments that echo those of the poem, he had exonerated the troopers, adding: "But the men are more impressive than ever." He acknowledges that the poem is "not worthy of Sassoon at his best; that Sassoon did not wish to publish a run-of-the-mill poem is hardly a matter for surprise." It is part of a collection in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

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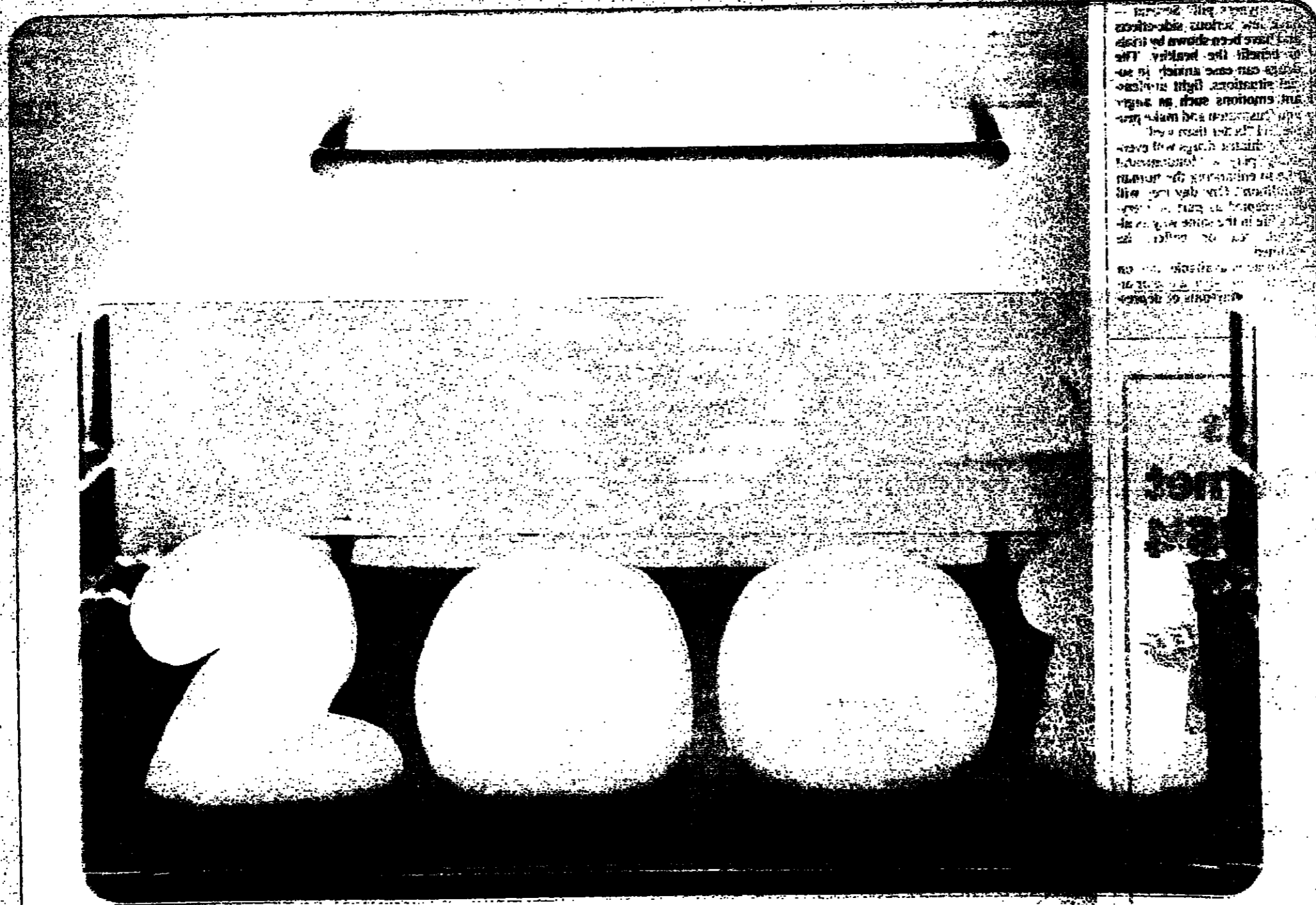
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Popping in to the Palace

Four boys who wrote to the Queen are to play at the Prince's birthday party. Dominic Kennedy reports

A SCHOOLBOY pop band who were given £5,000 of National Lottery cash so they could play more concerts are to perform in Buckingham Palace after writing an irreverent letter to the Queen.

The group Alive have been asked to do two 20-minute sets in front of 850 guests during the Friday evening gala celebrating the 50th birthday of the Prince of Wales.

The boys, aged 16 and 17, from Bury in Lancashire, enclosed a compact disc of their songs with a letter beginning "Dear Your Majesty" and continuing in the same informal vein to a row of kisses.

The group, whose fathers are their roadies and whose mothers act as caterers, washers and poster sellers, are used to captivating the mobs of teenage girls who watch their school concerts. In their letter, signed "Andy, Daz, Martin and Craig", they treated the Queen to a taste of the same waggish charm.

"We've never played in Lon-

don," they wrote, "and would like the chance to perform at Buckingham Palace, possibly inside the gates."

When Alive were granted the maximum £5,000 from the lottery's Arts For Everyone Express awards last year they were able to buy new lights and sound equipment and travel to more concerts. They were already something of local heroes. "They have become a bit of a cult group in Bury," a spokeswoman for the Arts Council of England, which distributed the money, said. "Girls have pictures of them on their walls. The grant was to increase their professional development and training opportunities."

Before the Arts Council stepped in, the boys had played only 20 concerts at venues such as primary schools and special schools. They used part of the cash to buy time in a recording studio. They have already shared the bill with Madonna on the lottery programme this year. They will

DEAR YOUR MAJESTY...

"A long time ago you gave out OBE's to The Beatles and have since given awards to many famous pop stars, but you've had the same band playing outside Buckingham Palace since forever. Well, we are four young lads aged 16 and 17 who form the band ALIVE. In fact here's a CD of our music for you to listen to and some information about us. We were recently booked to play a load of concerts with top acts, but the promoter turned out to be a complete conman and we really lost out. We've never played in London and would like the chance to perform at Buckingham Palace, possibly inside the gates where the band usually plays to entertain the crowds or inside at a party. It would be a really good gig for us and having the gig on our CV might help us swing a record contract. You will note from the enclosed leaflet that we got support from The Prince's Trust. They gave us a grant of £480 in January 1997 and we would have asked Prince Charles, but as Buckingham Palace is your home we thought we should ask you first. We've put a nice slow song on the CD first cos we thought you wouldn't be into heavy stuff. By all means give the CD to your grandchildren to listen to but make sure they give it you back. Finally, we are four good lads who don't do drugs, aren't scruffy and don't use foul language (maybe that's where we've been going wrong!) Anyway, if you can give us a break it would be cool. With our love to you and all the Royal Family, Andy, Daz, Martin and Craig XXXX"

perform in the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace, the largest area of the State Rooms, where musicians entertain visiting dignitaries. The guests at the party will include 400 from charities and organisations linked with the Prince.

Peter Ross, 45, father of the lead guitarist Andy, is their manager, said. "We are deeply honoured that the Queen has asked us to perform."



From left to right, Andy, Martin, Darren and Craig of Alive

Jagers drawn over covergirl daughter

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

THE burgeoning modelling career of Mick Jagger's 14-year-old daughter is causing a rift between the Rolling Stones singer and his wife, it emerged yesterday.

Jagger is furious about Elizabeth's modelling work and thinks that she should be concentrating on schoolwork, his wife, Jerry Hall, said. Elizabeth has already followed her mother on to the catwalk for the designers Thierry Mugler and Vivienne Westwood and makes her covergirl debut for *Harpers & Queen* tomorrow.

Ms Hall told the magazine's December issue that her husband disapproved. "He wants Elizabeth to concentrate on her schoolwork and says it is really silly as she doesn't need the money," she said. "But I tell him almost every schoolgirl wants to be a model."

She was modelling only in the summer holidays and "the other odd thing", she said. Her daughter had "worked on her" for a year before she had allowed her to model, she said. "I was putting it off as long as possible, but she's 5ft 9½in, very thin and very pretty, so model scouts who had no idea who she was kept coming up to her and giving her cards."

Happy pill 'should be available for all'

BY MARK HENDERSON

POWERFUL drugs such as Prozac should be available as "happy pills" to healthy people with no clinical need for them, a psychologist urged yesterday.

Anti-depressants can vastly improve the lives of people who have never suffered from depression or mental health problems, Bruce Charlton of Newcastle University said in a paper published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

Treatments such as Prozac and paroxetine — marketed as the "stymess pill" *Stemet* — have few serious side-effects and have been shown to benefit the healthy. "The drugs can ease anxiety in social situations, fight unpleasant emotions such as anger and frustration and make people feel "better than most".

Psychiatric drugs will eventually play a "positive role in enhancing the human condition". One day they will be accepted as part of everyday life in the same way as alcohol, tea or coffee, he claimed.

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X-rays reveal the true mark of a master

Rediscovered work by Velázquez is causing a stir, reports **Dalya Alberge**

A PAINTING long thought to have been by the 17th-century Spanish artist Murillo has been reattributed to his teacher, Velázquez, after X-rays revealed his distinctive palette knife markings.

Studies of the *Saint Rufina* also uncovered stylistic links to the *Sibyl* in the Prado, Madrid. The news has caused a stir among historians. Although Murillo (1617-82) is a revered Old Master, his virtuosity is eclipsed by Velázquez (1599-1660).

The record price paid for a Murillo, set by Christie's in 1990, stands at £2 million. The last time a great Velázquez came on to the market was in 1970, again at Christie's, when it fetched £2.31 million, breaking the world record.

Anthony Crichton-Stuart, the British-born head of Old Master pictures of Christie's in New York, said: "Velázquez is not only the most important painter of the Golden Age of painting in Spain, he ranks as one of the greatest and most influential Western artists of all time. *Saint Rufina* is an exceptional example of his work."

The painting was first recorded in the inventory of Velázquez's first and principal patron, Don Luis de Haro, Marqués de Elche, 6th Marqués del Carpio, in 1643 he succeeded his uncle as Prince Minister to King Philip IV of Spain, whose favourite court painter was Velázquez.



Old Masters: Velázquez and his pupil, Murillo

The inventory described the work as "a painting of St Rufina, half-length, with a palm and some cups in her hands, original by Diego Velázquez, three-quarters and a half in height and two-thirds and two fingers in width."

Explaining why the size is only "more or less comparable", Mr Crichton-Stuart said that depended on how fat one's fingers were.

The painting had disappeared until 1868, when it resurfaced in the collection of the Earl of Dudley as the work of Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, the leading painter in Seville after Velázquez left for Madrid in 1623.

Murillo was once compared to Titian, Raphael and Van Dyck, and his fame in the 18th and 19th centuries was enormous. In 1925 the 3rd Earl sold the painting at Christie's and

instigated a thorough technical examination of the painting, thereby confirming the attribution and establishing a date for the work between 1632 and 1634.

He spoke of how it was stylistically close to Velázquez's 1630 work, *Sibyl*, in the Prado, Madrid: "In both paintings the subject is set against a neutral, light coloured ground."

Chirping evidence was found in the X-ray, which clearly shows the marks left by his palette knife. "It shows a preparatory ground layer that is very particular to Velázquez."

Also the materials are typical of those used by Velázquez.

The composition depicts one of the patron saints and protectors of Seville. With her sister Saint Justa, Saint Rufina was martyred in 27AD after being tortured and killed by the Roman governor for refusing to give offerings to a statue of Venus. The work will be exhibited at Christie's London on December 9, before the auction in New York on January 29.



The *Saint Rufina* was long thought to have been by the Spanish artist Murillo

Arts and education share £7m donation

MORE than £7 million is to be shared by arts and educational projects from awards made by the Jerwood Foundation (Dalya Alberge writes).

Among schemes are a Jerwood Gallery at the Natural History Museum to allow regular displays from its collection of half a million drawings, paintings and prints.

Jerwood funds will also create a sculpture park at Witley Court, the magnificent ruined Victorian mansion near Worcester managed by English Heritage — among them new works commissioned from young artists.

As the foundation is now making capital grants, it announced that it will repay the Arts Council the £1.4 million lottery award allocated to the Jerwood Space for its development as a public arts venue.

The foundation, established in 1977, commemorates John Michael Jerwood, who died in 1991. He established one of the largest dealerships in cultured pearls. During his lifetime he made extensive donations within the fields of music and education.

Censor's regret over Travolta drug scene

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S outgoing film censor yesterday criticised *Pulp Fiction* for glamorising drug-taking and said that, in hindsight, he believed that it might have been better to cut it.

James Ferman, who retires as director of the British Board of Classification in December, said the Quentin Tarantino film was "practically an advertisement" for heroin.

He told the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence that Tarantino, who claimed he wanted to do the "best shooting up scene in the world", had been socially irresponsible. But he said they could not cut a scene which shows John Travolta injecting the drug because it was "part of the rhythm" of the film.

Mr Ferman added: "We didn't cut the film and I don't know, looking back, whether that was a good idea. I still wonder whether injection has increased since this film was out, because it was going to increase the glamour of injection considerably."

He also worried about *Trainspotting*, which he said gave a "very mixed message" about heroin.

Simon the Signer will help deaf 'hear' TV

By OUR MEDIA
CORRESPONDENT

A VIRTUAL reality figure called Simon could be about to revolutionise television for the deaf.

The 3-D character will stand permanently in the corner of the screen translating words into sign language. The technology, developed by the University of East Anglia in Norwich, could eventually replace subtitles.

Simon the Signer is the result of a joint project between the university, the Independent Television Commission and a local graphics firm, Tevirtual. Scientists hope to have the technology to put the software for Simon in a box which deaf people can buy and put on their television sets by next year.

Professor Andrew Bangham of the university's School of Information Systems, said: "Subtitles can be difficult for a lot of deaf people who do not read smoothly. When signing is their first language it is a lot easier to understand than the written word. This system can convert subtitles straight into sign language without TV companies having to get a real signing expert to do it."



THE TIMES W...
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Army
defeat

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Arts and education share £7m donation

MORE than £7 million is to be shared by arts and education at projects from awards made by the Jerwood Foundation (Daisy Alberg writes).

Among schemes are a new gallery at the National Maritime Museum to allow the display of half a million drawings, paintings and prints.

Jerwood funds will also go to a sculpture park at White Court, the magnificent 19th-century mansion managed by the British Heritage - among other new works coming from young artists.

As the foundation is making capital grants, it has noticed that it will repay the Arts Council the £1.5 million lottery award allocated to Jerwood Space for its development as a public arts venue.

The foundation, established in 1977, commemorates Sir Michael Jerwood, who died in 1991. He established one of the largest dealerships in the world. During his lifetime he made extensive donations within the fields of music education.

Powell shows Army how to defeat racism

By HELEN RUMBLE

COLIN POWELL, the highest-ranking black officer in America, told the British Army yesterday to punish officers for any racism among their troops.

To assist in their self-declared "war on racism", the Army Forces flew in the former head of the American military to teach them how to be less prejudiced against people for their race or gender.

General Powell received an enthusiastic standing ovation from more than 100 top-ranking British commanders at the first conference to address equal opportunities in the Army.

He told them the lessons they should learn from his own struggle to progress from his beginnings as a poor child from the Bronx. His eyes brimmed with tears as he recalled leading the Desert



Powell: Gulf War troops were seen as one family

your goal but commanders and leaders who will take it on as their central mission and be ready to stick to it as a campaign.

"British officers should embark on this crusade for one reason, a simple reason, that it is in the best interests of Her Majesty's Armed Forces. Not as a favour but to produce an even more brave band of warriors. In this I wish them the best of luck."

Immediately afterwards Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, vowed to implement some of the American innovations, in particular making promotion of officers dependent on the wellbeing of the minority groups under their command.

"You can't blame everything on the boss," General Guthrie said to discreet applause, "but most things. As you know our



The Household Cavalry mounted a recruitment drive in Brixton, South London, yesterday. General Powell remarked that the US had never had a problem recruiting troops from ethnic minorities and said a decision to allow British servicemen to wear uniform in public life should help

track record has not, over the years, been good," he said. Ethnic minorities at present form 1 per cent of the Armed Forces.

"I believe we have made significant progress in the last year or so," the general said. "We have not been complacent, nor have we been arrogant. In short, we are fighting a war on racism."

Mr Robertson said that they

were ready to take on the more radical advice from General Powell. "We brought him here to learn from him. His recommendations to make officers responsible for racism in the ranks seem perfectly in line with what we have already been doing."

"His picture of the systematic way it has been done with clear leadership from the top

is what we intend and we hope we get his results."

General Powell said that as an 11-year-old boy in the Bronx in 1948 he had been told by society that he had "no need of ambitions or rights" and was told how black people were kept to the back of everything: "buses, movies or restaurants". However, that year American forces were desegre-

gated. "That 11-year-old boy didn't know Truman had signed an order that would make his dream come true."

The American experience was opposite to Britain in one respect, he said, in that it had never had a lack of applications from the black community. In this respect he applauded the decision this month to allow British servicemen to wear their uniform in public life. "We also took this decision after the Vietnam War and it was a major step in building pride and bonding and had a lot to do with our success in recruitment in the 1980s."

He said Britain should consider several American policies to try to improve on its poor equal opportunities per-

formance. It could give female and black officers mentors to compensate for the "buddy system" often available to whites, give quotas for black admissions to military colleges and ask promotion boards to be more lenient on young black officers because of racism they may have experienced in their career.

"It was a judgment I made that this was an appropriate thing to do: it has worked."

Afterwards British servicemen and women present said they were impressed by General Powell's performance. "His speech was so powerful, it gives you a buzz just to go out in uniform," Lieutenant Deborah Williams, an equal opportunities adviser in the Royal Navy, said.

Diana fund will not give cash for mines clearance

LANDMINE clearance organisations will receive no cash from the charity set up to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales, it emerged yesterday.

The Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has confirmed that £1 million set aside for the landmine cause in March this year will go towards aid for victims rather than the disposal of the weapons.

The decision to devote the money to humanitarian aid was taken after a panel of experts assembled by the fund, which has raised £85 million since the Princess's death, concluded that clearance was too expensive to support.

A fund spokeswoman said: "It was decided that to give the £1 million to landmine clearance would be a drop in the ocean and the money available would be most appropriate-

ly used by helping those damaged by these weapons."

Britain's biggest mine clearance charity immediately attacked the decision as "short-sighted". The Mines Advisory Group, which recently delayed the launch of a programme in Bosnia because of a cash shortage, said it was being penalised because of an assumption it was receiving money from the memorial fund.

Lou McGrath, MAG director, said that because the Princess was involved in mine clearing, "people expect we are receiving plentiful donations from the fund. But, as we have heard today, the opposite is the case and we face the ludicrous situation of the Diana Memorial Fund doing nothing to help a cause to which she gave a very clear and very important commitment."

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Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer are greeted on their release: more than 200 terrorists have now been freed

200th release sparks arms anger

By MARTIN FLETCHER

TWO IRA women terrorists were freed yesterday, bringing the number of prisoners released under the Good Friday Agreement to more than 200 without any arms or explosives decommissioned.

The releases brought protests from Conservatives and Unionists, who demanded that the Government halt the programme until disarmament began. Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said that the IRA would not offer even a token decommissioning. Asked why, he said: "The IRA won't do it. That's the reason."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, called the situation "dangerous and outrageous". He said

Tony Blair should end prisoner releases until there was substantial and verifiable decommissioning. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said it was "time for the Prime Minister to honour his written commitment to David Trimble to review the political process after six months if it was not working". If Sinn Fein insisted on maintaining its "Armalite and ballot box strategy" it should be excluded.

Ian Paisley Jr, justice spokesman of the anti-agreement Democratic Unionist Party, said the releases were a scandal. "We said the terrorists will take, take, take and give nothing in return, and Tony Blair has fallen headlong into their trap." Sinn Fein welcomed the 200th re-

lease, saying the Sentence Review Commission was beginning to do its job after a "stuttering start". It claims the Unionists are renegeing on the agreement by refusing to establish a power-sharing executive until the IRA begins disarming.

The two prisoners released from Northern Ireland's Maghaberry prison were Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer, both jailed for life for conspiring to plant 16 bombs in London and various English seaside resorts in 1985. In 1989 Anderson, a former Londonderry beauty queen married Paul Kavanagh, another IRA prisoner who bombed Harrods, the Chelsea barracks and the Wimpsey bar in Oxford Street, London, in a campaign that killed nine people.

'Unsafe' Maze prison to be closed by 2000

THE Government tried to draw the sting from a shocking report on Northern Ireland's Maze prison last night by announcing its intention to close the top-security terrorist jail by late 2000.

The report painted an astonishing picture of a prison where the inmates lived in a state of fear and humiliation and basic rules were inoperable. The Maze was "not safe for prisoners or staff". Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons in England and Wales, concluded.

He acknowledged that a prison with up to 500 highly organised paramilitary inmates faced unique problems but said that letting prisoners regulate themselves was no way to run any institution. The real victims were the "battle-weary and traumatised" prison officers who would require psychological as well as financial support when the Maze did finally close.

Inspector's scathing report says the lax regime endangers officers and inmates. Martin Fletcher reports

and confined to history," Sir David said.

The report acknowledged that it was too late to reimpose normal prison rules in the Maze but said written protocols should be agreed with each paramilitary group and sanctions imposed for violations. That way a measure of control could be restored to the governor and his staff.

The report explained how the prisoners had won the right to self-regulation through years of attrition, and listed a string of appalling consequences.

Inmates were able to have intimate physical relations with wives and girlfriends in unarmoured visit rooms. They routinely claimed compensation for damage to their property and that was paid without

question. They regularly demanded and received extra meals, clothes and furniture. When Loyalist Volunteer Force prisoners were moved from their wing after murdering a colleague they refused to go until supplied with designer sports clothes that cost the taxpayer £4,800 and a free supply of tobacco.

Prison officers were intimidated and their families threatened. In the course of the Troubles 29 officers were killed, mostly outside the prison. They were "worn down by the daily incessant demands, complaints and threats from people whom the courts had imprisoned for committing terrible crimes". They eventually sought to "avoid any situation that would bring conflict". Prisoners engineered the removal

of those who resisted by telling management that "their safety could not be guaranteed".

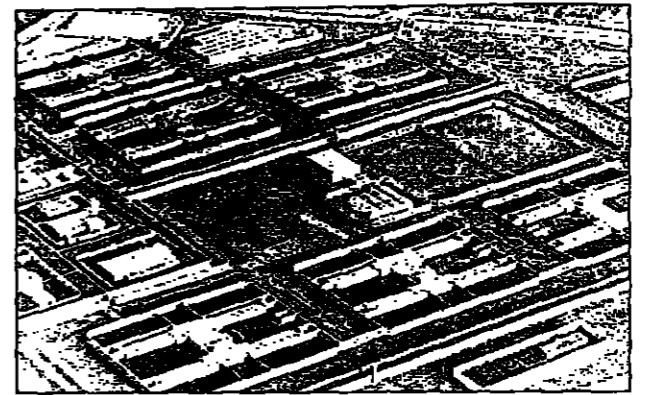
The guards could not enter the H blocks, without permission, conduct headcounts or perform proper searches. They were effectively ordered about by the inmates. They had no pride in their job and dreaded periods of calm for fear of what was being hatched.

Sir David generally avoided "the blame game" but at one point declared: "I would have expected that someone would have had the wit to realise what such continual exposure to stress entailed and have made arrangements for them to be relieved for periods." He recommended a special service medal for officers who had served during the Troubles.

One source told Sir David the Maze was a "dying prison" with neither staff nor prisoners knowing where the boundaries of acceptable behaviour lay. He called that an "apt description".

From internment cage to 'holiday camp'

By MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



A view of the Maze in 1983, showing the H blocks

THE Maze began life in 1971 as a series of makeshift prison huts or "cages" to house inmates on an old Second World War airfield 10 miles south of Belfast. It was known as Long Kesh, or the "Lazy K", and republicans still call it "the Kesh".

The internees, who included Gerry Adams, organised themselves along paramilitary lines. They enjoyed "special category" status to distinguish them from regular criminals but that status ended with internment in 1975 and its abolition paved the way for the "blanket" and "dirty" protests.

The internees had burnt down the Maze in 1974. In 1976 the eight present-day H blocks opened. IRA prisoners refused to wear prison uniform and began wrapping themselves in blankets. In 1978, when 300 "blanket men" were harassed while slopping out, they stopped washing and began smearing their excrement across their cell walls.

The "dirty protest" was succeeded by the 1981 hunger strike. Bobby Sands and nine other republicans demanding political status starved themselves to death. That changed

the course of the conflict. Sands was elected with 30,000 votes in a Fermanagh by-election shortly before he died. Two other strikers were elected to the Irish parliament. The republican movement realised its political potential and gradually turned from armed to unarmed struggle.

The strike also won the prisoners de facto political status. They were allowed their own clothes and excused prison work. In 1983 — the year 38 IRA prisoners escaped by hijacking a food lorry — loyalist and republican prisoners were segregated. Over the following decade the regime became increasingly liberal as the authorities reasoned that a pris-

on housing 500 terrorist prisoners could be run only with their co-operation.

By the time of last April's Good Friday accord, the Maze was widely portrayed as a holiday camp. The authorities secured the perimeter. The inmates ran their own wings and guards entered only with their permission.

That liberalisation enabled IRA inmates to dig a 40ft tunnel before they were discovered in 1997. INLA inmates to murder the loyalist terrorist Billy Wright and Liam Averill to escape in women's clothes after a Christmas party. It led to today's damning report by Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Clegg retrial told soldiers tried to save shot woman

SOLDIERS who were on patrol with Lee Clegg on the night he is accused of murdering Miss Reilly yesterday told a court of the frantic attempts they made to save the teenager.

The paratroopers described how they bandaged 18-year-old Karen Reilly's wounds and gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. They were giving evidence at Belfast Crown Court on the second day of Corporal Clegg's retrial for murder.

Sergeant Stephen Gilbert told the court that Miss Reilly, who was shot in the back in West Belfast in September 1990, was still breathing when she was taken out of the car. "She was obviously unconscious and bleeding heavily," Sergeant Gilbert, a corporal at the time of the shooting, said. Miss Reilly's father, Sean,



Karen Reilly: shot in back

victed in 1993 of murdering Miss Reilly and sentenced to life. He had opened fire on the car with other members of his patrol after they formed a road block on the Glen Road to stop joyriders. It was never established who fired the bullet that killed Miss Reilly.

The soldier was freed on licence in 1995 and went on to win the chance to clear his name in February when the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal quashed his conviction and ordered a retrial.

Corporal Clegg, who was a private at the time of the alleged offence, faces a new mandatory life sentence if he is found guilty a second time at the current hearing, which is expected to last six weeks. However legal sources say that it is highly unlikely he would be returned to jail.

The case continues.

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THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Sparks flying over top job at Marks

Patience Wheatcroft analyses the crisis crippling a British institution

MARKS and Spencer directors will today try to reassure shareholders that blood is not streaming down the corridors of head office in London. But fears that war has broken out in Baker Street will not be easily quelled.

The simmering question over the future leadership of the organisation has erupted into the public arena, with Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, under mounting pressure to step aside and his deputy, Keith Oates, apparently making a play for his job.

The mighty M&S now appears to be a company in crisis, its profits falling and its top management in turmoil. In the City there is amazement that the vital question of who should lead the business has been allowed to degenerate into such potentially damaging confusion. Investors are beginning to worry that the debate will inevitably distract attention from the fight that Marks should be staging to cope with evaporating sales, both at home and abroad.

The pressure is now on the six non-executive directors to act swiftly and put a stop to the squabbling. In theory they are a formidable bunch, with decades of experience in some of the country's major corporations, and the very special expertise of a former spy-master, Dame Stella Rimington.

In practice, there are doubts as to whether even they are a match for the bull-like determi-



The City feels M&S should be fighting falling sales

nation of the redoubtable Sir Richard, who does not want to be moved from his post. The non-executives suggested to him once before that he might relinquish some of his power but he ended up brandishing a bit of paper that assured the world they had asked him to stay until he is 65 (he is 62). But the revelation that Mr Oates has been pushing for change leaves the non-executives with no option but to confront the issue.

This week, Sir Richard cut short a trip to India to fly home and defend his position. Minions in Baker Street were cowering at the prospect of his fury on finding that his dominance was being challenged: he always denies a tendency to bully but does so with such vigour that it merely underlines the charge.

When he ventured into out-

side territory, to chair a CBI committee on corporate governance in 1995, he was said to be incapable of coping with the arguments. He bitterly regretted having got involved and, when he appeared before a House of Commons committee wearing an apron that proclaimed "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen", some thought the strain had proved too much.

Now, it seems, Keith Oates is prepared to risk his future career at M&S and make a stand against Sir Richard's continuing dominance. He is

said to feel that he has little to lose by declaring his ambitions to take over the reins. He is already a wealthy man, with seven times as many M&S shares as his boss.

He does not need the job for the extra salary — he was paid £26,000 last year, although Sir Richard collected more than £800,000 — but, now in his mid fifties, he knows that he cannot wait much longer for a top executive role. If it is not going to be at M&S, then he might look elsewhere: he is already a non-executive director of BT and Diageo.

The unanimity with which the Sunday papers reported Mr Oates's offer of his services shocked M&S insiders, used to their company's public pronouncements being made through the carefully vetted Baker Street channels. Mr Oates denies putting his own spin doctors to work in advancing his cause but, whether professional or amateur, the effect was devastating.

He was not the favoured candidate for preference. As Sir Richard has hung on, long past his original retirement date, the managing directors have been jockeying for position. Andrew Stone, Lord Stone of Blackheath, eventually decided to bow out, opting to accept a working peerage and combine running the M&S food business with the House of Lords. Increasingly the mumbblings have singled



tion. Andrew Stone, Lord Stone of Blackheath, eventually decided to bow out, opting to accept a working peerage and combine running the M&S food business with the House of Lords. Increasingly the mumbblings have singled out Peter Salisbury as the next man to head the company. But, despite his thorough grounding in the business, the non-executives are not convinced that Mr Salisbury is the face of the future. Some of them feel that Sir Richard's dominance has left the company with a dearth of talent to fill the gap and run a company with sales of £8 billion and operations throughout the world. Sir Richard, however, is almost certainly going to have to give up half his job at the very least. He will have to get used to the idea of power-sharing if he is to stay on at M&S into the next century, as he wishes. The non-execs are going to have to opt for someone to work alongside him and hope he grows into the job.

GP sent for trial on death of patient

By Russell Jenkins

A DOCTOR was sent for trial yesterday on a charge of murdering an elderly patient, only hours after police exhumed a seventh body as part of their continuing investigation.

Harold Shipman, 52, who runs a one-man general practice in Hyde, Tameside, was committed to appear before a judge at Manchester Crown Court on December 8 by magistrates in Ashton-under-Lyne.

The GP is charged with murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, in June this year, and with two charges of forging her will making him the sole beneficiary of her £300,000 estate, and two charges of forging letters.

Dr Shipman, wearing a pull-over and open-neck shirt, spoke only briefly during the 12-minute hearing.

His wife Primrose, 51, sat in the public gallery of Tameside Magistrates' Court alongside family and friends. Mrs Grundy's daughter, Angela Woodruff, was also in court to listen to the proceedings.

Roy Mellor, chairman of the magistrates' panel, ordered Dr Shipman to appear before the court on December 7 for committal proceedings to take place on three further murder charges.

He has been charged with murdering Winifred Mellor, 73, in May, German-born Bianka Pomfret, 49, in December last year and Joan Melia, also 73, in June this year.

Dr Shipman, who is being held on remand, said "no" when he was asked to indicate whether he would be pleading guilty to the forgery charges. The hearing came hours after the remains of Irene Turner, 67, one of Dr Shipman's patients, who died two years ago, were dug up at Hyde cemetery in the presence of a priest. It was the seventh exhumation as police investigate the circumstances surrounding the deaths of up to 116 patients.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies of bonfire burns

A boy aged 11 who suffered 95 per cent burns in a Bonfire Night explosion has died. Alan Spiers of Law, Lanarkshire, was injured when a 45-gallon drum, which was thought to have contained diesel, blew up at an unsupervised bonfire. His parents, Anne and Lindsay, were with him when he died at Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow.

Visa denied

Australia has turned down a visa request by the former secret service agent Richard Tomlinson, jailed last year for breaching the Official Secrets Act by sending an e-mail to a Sydney publisher.

Bishops move

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Rev Timothy Stevens, Suffragan Bishop of Dumfries, as Bishop of Leicester. He will succeed the Right Rev Thomas Butler.

Cyber siblings

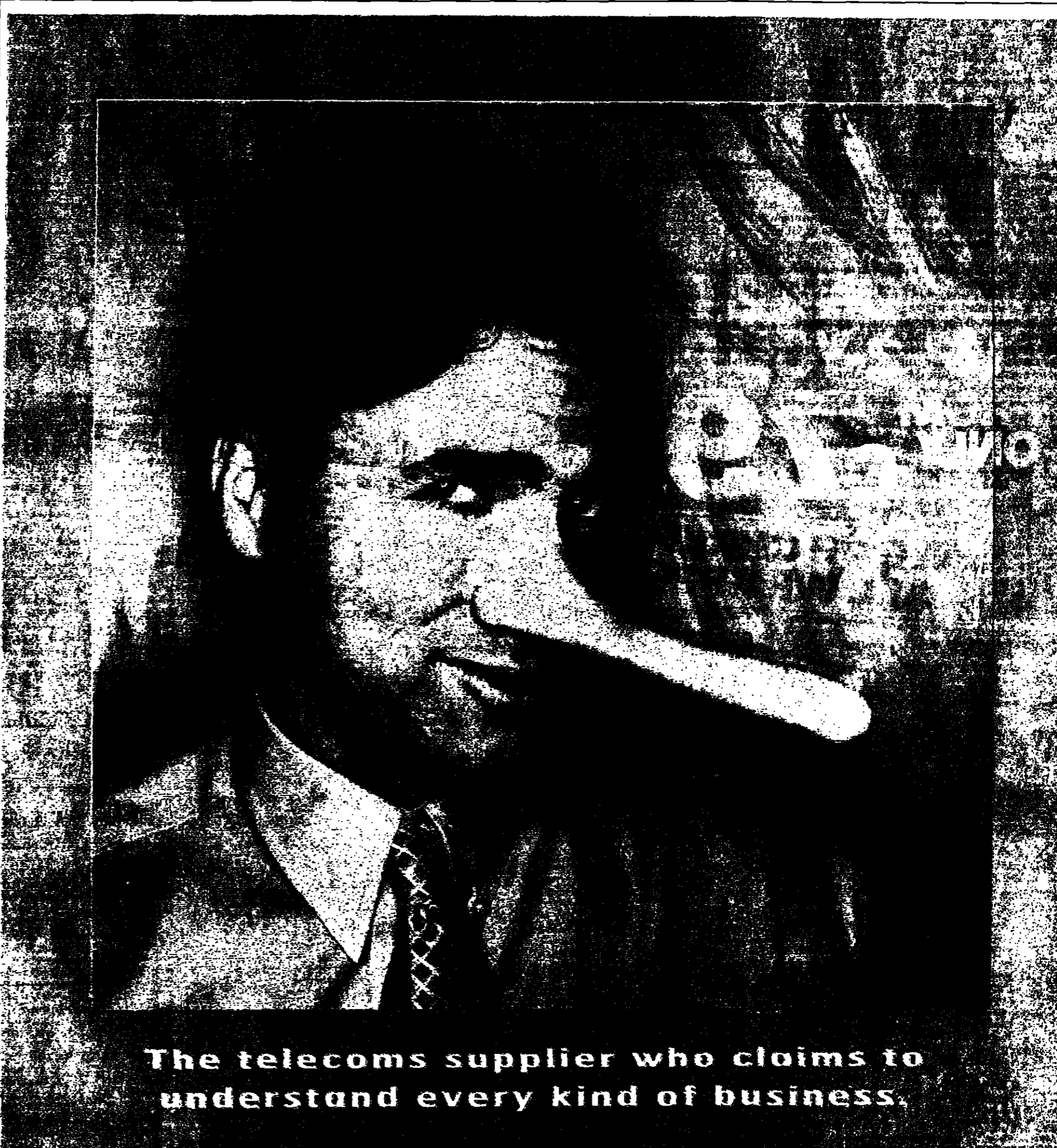
After 50 years of searching for his brother and two sisters, a man has found them in five minutes — on the Internet. Richard Sterras, 71, of Hereford, was helped by his grandson using his home computer.

Priests bailed

Two Roman Catholic priests accused of sexually abusing a boy of 15 may be tried after a jury failed to reach verdicts. Anthony Smithwick, 41, and Philip Temple, 48, who deny the charges, were bailed.

Toad haul

A first edition of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame sold for £44,400 at Sotheby's in London. It had belonged to the late Edward Biffell, a reclusive book collector from Ashorne, Warwickshire.



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Hague rebukes Portillo in clash over euro policy

WILLIAM HAGUE moved to bring Michael Portillo into line over the single currency yesterday after claims that the former Defence Secretary was after his job.

The Tory leader telephoned Mr Portillo to rebut his criticism that the party was falling to take a sufficiently robust line in defending the pound. Mr Portillo's apparent attack provoked Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister, to suggest that he would run for the leadership after returning to Parliament.

Mr Hague pointed out that the Conservatives had a clear stance on the euro which had been backed by a ballot of members. And in what seems to have been a pointed rebuke, he told Mr Portillo that all Conservatives should be concentrating on attacking the "shambles" of the Government's policy on the single currency.

A source close to Mr Hague said: "We are giving a lead on the single currency. It is for others to follow and support that lead." Mr Hague's action in calling Mr Portillo prompted the former minister, who lost his seat at the election, to put out a statement declaring that Mr Hague had shown

Tory leader on the offensive as attack is seen as challenge to his leadership, writes Philip Webster

bold leadership and had "clear prime ministerial qualities".

Mr Portillo had written in *The Daily Telegraph* that the Tories should "provide leadership" over the single currency and that the party could become a credible force again only "by showing it has something to say".

Sources close to Mr Portillo said he had been taken aback to see his remarks presented as criticism.

Mr Heseltine told Radio 4's *Today* programme: "When Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future ever can be." Mr

Portillo's subsequent statement praising Mr Hague highlighted his leadership on Europe in particular. "He richly deserved the overwhelming victory he achieved in the recent ballot of party members. I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe. It is only the Conservative Party which can provide leadership to the many groups which are pointing out the risks of entry to economic and monetary union."

"William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

Mr Portillo's statement did not explicitly rule out a future leadership challenge.

In his article Mr Portillo urged Mr Hague to "capitalise" on his victory in the euro ballot to lead the fight to save the pound. Mr Hague ruled out joining monetary union for the lifetime of the next Parliament. But the former Defence Secretary wrote that unless the Conservatives started showing leadership, opposition to the single currency would be "whittled away".

Leading article, page 21



The former MP Rod Richards celebrating being chosen as the Tory candidate for Welsh First Secretary yesterday

Tories steal a march in Wales

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES AND ROLAND WATSON

THE Conservatives yesterday chose their candidate to lead them into the elections to the Welsh assembly as Labour grappled with the dilemma of how to keep control of its plans for devolution.

Rod Richards, a former Tory MP, was selected to lead the party in Wales. Mr Richards beat law lecturer Nick Bourne, widely regarded as William Hague's first choice, by 3,873 votes to 2,798. Mr Richards, 51, was on the Select Committee for Welsh Affairs and Welsh Office Minister between 1994 and 1996 but resigned when an affair was made public.

In contrast, the resignation of Ron Davies and inability of

Alun Michael, the fledgling Welsh Secretary, to make an impression on opinion polls in Wales against Rhodri Morgan, the popular former front-bench spokesman, has left the process for selecting Labour's candidate for the post of Welsh First Secretary in disarray.

The decision may be shelved until after May's elections, when the choice would be left to successful Labour candidates, giving Mr Michael time to build up his profile locally.

It would also give him, as Tony Blair's preferred choice, the best platform from which to offer his potential backers jobs in the assembly and party advancement. But with the grass roots in Wales in febrile

mood and members briding at London interference, one MP suggested the best boost would be for the Prime Minister to denounce him.

The job of delivering for Mr Michael has been given to George Wright, the 63-year-old veteran Transport and General Workers' Union fiver and "godfather" figure in the Welsh Labour Party. Mr Morgan's popularity almost certainly means the contest will not be run on a one-member-one-vote basis. It could be left to the Welsh executive, but that is likely to be seen as too centralised, and would spark a revolt among party members denied a say.

The frontrunner remains an

electoral college, the method by which Mr Davies was elected, giving a third of the votes each to MPs and assembly candidates, unions, and constituencies.

Under such a scheme Mr Wright becomes a central figure. Welsh MPs believe he could deliver the five biggest unions for Mr Michael.

The arguments for backing Mr Michael are likely to centre around the prospects of the Principality going penniless if the will of London is denied.

Mr Michael, Mr Morgan and Wayne David, the MEP and third leadership contender, will meet the Welsh party executive again tomorrow to try to agree a way ahead.

Get rid of wigs as well, Irvine tells MPs

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday defended his wish to be rid of his 17th-century ceremonial costume and suggested judges and lawyers would also be better off without wigs.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said that the rest of the country had discarded wigs at the end of the 18th century. "I have never thought that the quality of justice or the effectiveness of advocacy depended in the least upon what advocates wear."

Lawyers needed to be distinguished from everyone else in court but a gown and bands were "quite sufficient", he told the Home Affairs committee.

Lord Irvine said that when taking a Bill through the floor of the House, he should be allowed to discard his silk gown and wig, which was "very uncomfortable and weighs a ton".

But in an attempt to forestall opposition from traditionalist Tory peers, he insisted that he had no intention of tampering with the costume worn when sitting as Speaker on the Woolsack in the Lords. He told MPs that in his view, the "days of breeches, tights and buckled shoes" were over. "I have no objection on great occasions of state like the opening of Parliament," he said.

Leading article, page 21

THE TAILS
Bermuda sweep the old

LAST OUTPOST OF BRITAIN

New leader

Briton gets out of jail in dustbin
Fam claim first President

Why the Blairites must debunk the Livingstone myth

KEN LIVINGSTONE is the wrong person to become mayor of London. He is disqualified both because of his record leading the old Greater London Council and because of the qualities needed for the new post. Labour leaders obviously agree, not wanting him in a position where he could challenge the Government.

However, the leadership has so far not confronted Mr Livingstone on these terms. It does not want to get into a "Ken versus the Blairites" dispute. The main focus now is procedural. Labour officials point out that narrowing down the

choice of candidates through interview has been used for all other bodies.

However, procedural devices are the wrong way to block Mr Livingstone. Of course, the party has the power to outmanoeuvre London activists, but this would be at the cost of much bitterness and splits. If the Blairites want to demonstrate that Labour has changed, they have to challenge the Livingstone myth.

Mr Livingstone is one of the most engaging politicians, with a disarming candour and sure populist touch. He has managed to cre-

ate a rose-tinted picture of the GLC years, a mixture of cheap Tube fares, jolly japes and impudent challenge to Margaret Thatcher at her most powerful. He became the People's Ken, a martyr of Thatcherism.

His record in office was in reality much less successful. After the coup which established him as Labour leader in 1981, Mr Livingstone quickly epitomised the London loony left. His squabbling regime was unpopular because of its grants to fringe groups, its big increases in rates and its gesture politics. The low fares campaign was

financially irresponsible and was eventually blocked in the courts.

As Tony Travers of the Greater London Group at the London School of Economics has pointed out, "it took Mrs Thatcher to restore Ken Livingstone's popularity. Her random and ill thought-through decision to abolish the GLC reversed its leader's popularity slump". Mr Livingstone and the GLC leadership depicted them-

selves as victims of Thatcherite oppression. The myth was born.

Mr Livingstone's five-year roller-coaster in County Hall was partly because the old GLC had lost its way. What the Government has now proposed is very different. According to its White Paper last March, the elected mayor will run new transport and economic development bodies, work with a new Metropolitan Police authority to tackle crime, organise London-wide action to improve the environment, oversee a new fire authority and be a voice for London in developing tourism, culture and sport.

What is needed is someone with a proven executive background to control a budget of more than £3.5 billion a year, and to sort the urgent problems of the London Underground, not a gesture politician, however charming. Tony Blair, who is playing the London issue very long, has personally pushed the idea of elected mayors despite sceptical colleagues.

In America, the most successful mayors have proven themselves running organisations. They often come from outside the ranks of party politicians. Mr Blair is interested in a more independent figure of

this type, though the list of possible candidates with the right experience and public profile is not long. Bob Ayling is fully occupied with the problems of British Airways. Sir Paul Condon is tarnished by the Stephen Lawrence affair. The Blairites mistrust Richard Branson and Heather Rabbatts, Lambeth's feisty chief executive, is little known outside local authority circles.

But someone of this kind might not only be the best mayor but might also defeat Mr Livingstone.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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YURI KADDOENOV / EPA

Auschwitz synagogue reborn as museum

By Roger Boyes

THE only surviving synagogue near the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz was reopened yesterday and will become the centre of a Jewish religious and cultural institute.

The opening coincides with the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass", which saw the destruction of hundreds of German and Austrian synagogues. That night of arson and looting is regarded as the critical step on the road to the Holocaust.

Until recently the synagogue in the southern Polish town of Oswiecim, the Polish name for Auschwitz, was used as a carpet store. The New York-based Auschwitz Jewish Centre Foundation wants to make the synagogue part of a museum illustrating Jewish life in a place which has become a synonym for the death of Jews.

Fred Schwartz, the president of the foundation, said the project costing between \$5 million (£3 million) and \$10 million was supported by the governments and religious leaders of all faiths in Poland and the United States.

Cold and hunger drive Russians from villages

AS RUSSIAN and European Union officials worked out the details of a multimillion-pound aid package to help Russia through the winter, reports emerged yesterday that hundreds of inhabitants of remote villages in the far north of the country were abandoning their homes in search of food and fuel.

In the far eastern port of Vladivostok, local authorities closed schools and day-care centres yesterday because there was no heating. The Vladivostok energy supplier said it was unable to buy fuel or repair pipelines because the city had not paid its bills.

Russian officials now acknowledge that there is a desperate need for humanitarian aid from abroad to help people in the worst hit regions get through the winter. Last week Russia signed an agreement with the United States for the supply of 3.1 million tonnes of food, including grain, pork and beef worth \$625 million (£375 million).

Yesterday Gennadi Kulik, a Deputy Prime Minister, told the Interfax news agency that there were plans to buy £260 million worth of food from the EU, which would be resold on the domestic market and the profits used

Western officials are scrambling to finalise aid package as fears of a winter famine grow, writes Robin Lodge in Moscow

to fund social programmes. In addition, he said, the EU could provide humanitarian aid worth up to £7.8 million. EU officials said last month that Russia had requested food aid during a visit to Moscow by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President.

But the Russians later denied that any such request had been made and many officials have insisted that Russia can deal with the problem itself. The Russian economic crisis, coupled with a disastrous harvest — down nearly 50 per cent on 1997 — and falling food imports, have raised serious

concerns that many parts of the country will face catastrophic shortages during the winter months. Hundreds of thousands of people are already having difficulties finding enough to eat and some officials have expressed fears of famine breaking out in the more remote regions.

In Chukotka, the north-eastern tip of the country across the Bering Straits from Alaska, Aleksandr Trypitsy, the deputy governor of the region, told Russian television that the authorities had begun evacuating hundreds of people from the Arctic town of Cape Schmidt, a mining cen-

tre that relies entirely on federal subsidies for its food and fuel supplies. Conditions in Chukotka are particularly harsh, with the winter lasting nine months of the year and temperatures plummeting to minus 55C (minus 67F).

The problem is made worse by poor distribution and bureaucracy, which often leads to food supplies being held up for days or weeks at railway junctions. Aid distribution is frequently hampered by customs officials and there have been accusations levelled in the past against the West of attempting to off-load substandard food and out-of-date medicines on Russia. The International Red Cross, the main non-governmental organisation dealing with aid to Russia, is attempting to raise £11 million in an emergency winter appeal for Russia and the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

□ Tallinn: Estonian authorities yesterday turned off the water supply to the Russian border city of Ivangorod because it had not paid its water bill. Officials in the Estonian city of Narva, where the region's main water utility is located, said that Ivangorod had failed to pay water bills of more than \$1 million. (AP)

General demoted to private

Moscow: President Maslhadov of Chechnya yesterday demoted the warlord Salman Raduyev from brigadier general to private after he was convicted of attempting a coup, news reports said. As brigadier gen-

eral, Raduyev was a field commander in the 1994-96 war with Russia for independence. He had been demoted to private after his resignation and was tried in absentia for the coup attempt. (AP)



Elderly visitors arrive to inspect the new memorial to the millions of victims of Stalin's repression. Situated in a park on Krymskaya Embankment in Moscow, the monument was opened to the public yesterday

Root and branch appraisal of Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALL the trees in Paris are to be fitted with invisible electronic "collars" to enable the city's park keepers to identify the specific type, age and infirmities of each one at the push of a button.

About 30,000 trees have already been fitted with the electronic tags, and a further 60,000 will be similarly marked in the coming year at a cost of Fr3.5 million (£350,000).

The tags are inserted into the trunk without causing any damage to the tree and then masked with wood-coloured filler. The badge can be read, using a hand-held electronic device, at a distance of around a foot.

Paris city authorities say the plan will ensure accurate monitoring of diseases in the tree population, and may help to combat a major invasion by termites which has already affected about 1,300 trees.

Paris is one of the most densely wooded cities in Europe and the municipal foresters have often found it hard to track diseases and organise re-planting programmes.

The new system, based on the electronic tagging system for livestock, will distinguish each tree from its neighbour by accessing a computer databank with details of age, species, pruning history and any remedial treatment that might be required.

Plans to paint a number on each tree were rejected as unsightly, while nailing a badge to each trunk was also deemed unsuitable as it could harm the trees and would be liable to removal by vandals.



Amidor: says lyrics of peace songs are a lie

General attacks songs of peace

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN Israeli general who once provoked a storm by claiming that non-Orthodox Jews were not true members of the faith sparked a new furore yesterday by trying to censor peace songs in the military.

Major-General Yaacov Amidor, the first Orthodox Jew to serve on the General Staff, launched his attack on the songs at a closed seminar last month. The attack only came to light yesterday.

In *The Last War*, a soldier who fought in the 1973 Yom Kippur campaign promises his daughter there will be no more wars with the Arabs. The other lyric, *Winter '73*, is about parents' peace promises unfulfilled.

The general described the lyrics as "a lie", prompting furious criticism from the Left and from Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister. Mr Mordechai, a former senior officer, is known to be particularly fond of *Winter '73*.

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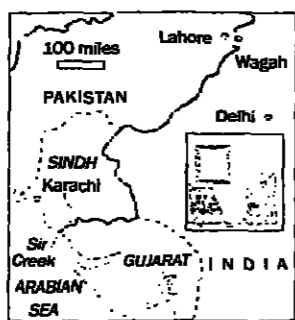
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Creek squabble stirs up India border tension

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TALKS between India and Pakistan on a disputed creek which is short, narrow, shallow, un-navigable and of no commercial value, have broken down acrimoniously — the final proof, if it were needed, that the old enemies can agree on nothing.



They also disagreed yesterday on economic co-operation. There is almost no commerce between them, despite the enormous potential. A less restrictive border would produce an immediate annual trade of \$1 billion (£625 million), according to estimates by both sides. Instead, they exchange little more than the occasional batch of wheat or sugar.

The disputed waterway is known as Sir Creek, and demarcates part of the border between the western Indian state of Gujarat and Sindh province in Pakistan. Almost 90 years ago, an argument over a pile of firewood lying on the banks started a dispute that was taken up by the then rulers of the provinces of Kutch and Sindh, the latter of which is now part of Pakistan. That conflict has become the basis of a public wrangle between two nuclear powers.

The seeming pettiness of the dispute is justified by both

sides on the ground that the outcome would set a precedent for much larger questions of maritime boundary disputes. The breakdown of the talks was hardly a surprise: every area of dispute the two sides have discussed in official talks in Delhi since last week has generally ended in stalemate and recrimination.

Efforts to disengage from the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas, where the two countries fight a pointless war for control of uninhabitable and strategically useless mountain-tops, collapsed amid bitter words on both sides last week.

The 20-mile Sir Creek was recognised in the early 1900s as the boundary between Kutch and Sindh. The then rul-

ers of Kutch and Sindh took the matter of the firewood seriously and referred it to high authorities in Bombay to arbitrate.

In 1914 the Government of India issued a resolution acceptable to both sides, resulting in the production of Map No B44. In it, a green line denoting the boundary was marked on the eastern bank — customary in British times, when rivers and creeks were never divided down the middle as a matter of policy because of the trouble it invariably caused.

Pakistan says the map places the creek in its territory; India says the green line was not a boundary but a "riband," a symbolic line, since rivers and creeks should be divided down the middle. Pakistan called for third-party arbitration to settle the issue but India, which never permits outside involvement in its disputes with the Islamic state, refused.

Nothing, it seems, is capable of easing cross-border tensions: even plans to open a bus route through the only official land crossing between both countries, at Wagah in Punjab, have come to nothing because of bureaucratic inertia and lack of political will.



A VIGILANTE in Indonesia's civilian security forces attacks a suspected student protester approaching the parliament building in Jakarta, where more than 5,000 students staged a demonstration yesterday. Similar protests were reported in at least six

Indonesia protesters curbed

other cities as legislators opened a special meeting in the capital to prepare for elections in 1999. The students converged on the parliament but found their route blocked by soldiers and police. The standoff lasted for nearly four hours, but no serious violence was reported. The protesters said the parliamentary meeting was illegitimate because the assembly was the product of unfair elections held under former President Suharto, ousted on May 21. They said the presidency of B. J. Habibie, who took over, was also unconstitutional because the transfer was not carried out in parliament. (AFP)

Scores held as China targets churches

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

CHINESE police have detained more than 140 Christian worshippers and beaten up some of their leaders in a new crackdown on underground Protestant churches, the New York-based Human Rights in China said in a letter released yesterday.

The Christians were arrested at meetings in underground or house-churches at two venues in central Henan province on October 26 and November 5, the letter from a church campaigner revealed.

It alleged that police "cruelly beat" at least 13 people identified as church leaders. Their whereabouts are currently unknown, the letter written by David Zhang, an unofficial spokesman for China's house-churches, said.

A police official in Wugang county, where 40 arrests were made earlier, said the authorities moved to ban an illegal meeting and took into custody those who resisted. The official claimed that some of the churchgoers shot at the officers with home-made rifles, and that those involved came from 16 Chinese provinces.

The Religious Affairs Bureau, a Chinese Communist Party organisation which monitors religious activity, refused to comment. Officials in Nanyang, where arrests were also made, remained tight-lipped.

The letter said that on the night of October 26 police surrounded worshippers gathering in a village outside Wugang and in a sudden raid took away 11 church leaders.

Ten days later, 60 miles away in Nanyang, police broke up a house-church service and arrested more than 100 people.

In his letter, Mr Zhang predicted that in the next two months there will be greater religious persecution in China.

Political observers here said that despite a willingness on the part of China's leaders to discuss the issue of religious tolerance with leaders such as President Clinton and Mary Robinson, the United Nations Human Rights chief, intimidation of Christians continues.

Suicide woman dies after botched rescue

Bangkok: A Thai woman fell to her death from a five-storey building after a police officer trying to talk her out of suicide made a sudden, failed bid to grab and rescue her.

Police in Hat Yai, 590 miles south of Bangkok, came under criticism yesterday for the botched rescue, which was seen by millions of Thais on television.

No nets were spread under Sripaphai Cheoyphiew, 25, during the five-hour standoff on Monday and no ambulance had been placed on

standby. Ms Sripaphai was reportedly depressed after her Malaysian boyfriend left her. She stood on the roof of her building during the ordeal as a plainclothes officer negotiated with her. At one point, he tried to grab her. In the video, she appeared startled and fell off the ledge.

The officer clutched at her skirt and held on for about five seconds as she scrambled to find a handhold. But the skirt tore away and she fell, dying two hours later from internal bleeding. (AP)



The victim hangs by her skirt seconds before her fall

Police 'bullied' Anwar foes

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian police bullied two people into retracting sex charges against Anwar Ibrahim, the ousted Deputy Prime Minister, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Anwar is being tried on four corruption charges alleging that he used his position to quash the police investigation into the sex accusations. The former protégé of Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, has denied the charges, maintaining that he is the victim of a plot.

But a senior police officer, Abdul Aziz Hussein, who led the investigation, said he received direct orders from top police officials to ensure that Mr Anwar's accusers withdrew the allegations.

Umimi Hafida Ali was taken in for questioning in August last year after she accused Mr Anwar of having sex with his driver and her sister-in-law, the wife of Mr Anwar's private secretary at the time. For eight hours, she was subjected to police interrogation during which she was threatened that she could be charged under the country's draconian Internal Security Act.

Mr Abdul Aziz said the aim of the investigation was to "neutralise" Ms Umimi and the driver, Aziz Abu Bakar, and get them "to retract their accusations". At first, Ms Umimi was adamant about her accusations, contained in a letter written to Dr Mahathir.

It took Mr Abdul Aziz several more days to persuade her to come up with a strong enough retraction letter to satisfy his boss, Special Branch chief Mohamed Said Awang. Special Branch police also had to frighten Mr Azizanto get him to retract allegations that he had homosexual relations with Mr Anwar.

The trial is due to be adjourned on Saturday, three days before a summit of the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. (AFP)

Political observers here said that despite a willingness on the part of China's leaders to discuss the issue of religious tolerance with leaders such as President Clinton and Mary Robinson, the United Nations Human Rights chief, intimidation of Christians continues.

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Scores held as China targets churches

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING
The Chinese government has ordered scores of churches to be closed in a move that has been seen as a prelude to a crackdown on religious activities. The government has ordered the closure of churches in several cities, including Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai. The churches were targeted for their perceived links to foreign interests and their role in promoting religious freedom.

Help at last for hurricane victims

AS ANOTHER large United States aid delegation flew into Honduras yesterday, led by Tipper Gore, the wife of Vice-President Al Gore, relief officials here said they are seeing signs of progress as supplies have begun to reach even the most inaccessible areas where villages have, in some cases, been without food and drinking water for almost two weeks.



Relief officials delighted at efforts by governments and private groups, David Adams reports from Tegucigalpa

on the north coast, where relief supplies are being packaged by students whose classes have been suspended since Hurricane Mitch struck 11 days ago. Delighted relief officials say they are overwhelmed by the international support Honduras has received, not only from

governments, but also from numerous independent development organisations, private charities and religious groups. The US has so far agreed to provide \$70 million (£43.7 million) in short-term humanitarian relief. The British Government has donated £250,000 in

bilateral aid, which is being channelled through local development groups, as well as another \$300,000 towards the larger European Union effort. Britain, France and Germany are also leading the debate over a moratorium on Honduras' \$4 billion foreign debt. In response to the impressive strides taken by Honduran governments in recent years to control spending and introduce democratic reforms, the Europeans are leaning towards a generous approach to the country's debt burden, possibly even writing off its \$1.8 billion debt with EU mem-

bers. On the ground, the British contribution is being spearheaded by Royal Navy vessels, HMS Sheffield, HMS Ocean and HMS Tristram - accompanied by 600 Royal Marine commandos. To prolong their presence, the crews of all three ships are on strict rotations. Yesterday HMS Sheffield was anchored outside the port of Puerto Castillo on the north coast as navy search and rescue teams were deployed on inflatable craft up the Aguán River, where extensive flooding has left many communities isolated. HMS Tristram and HMS Ocean, with eight heli-

copters on board, are active in the Mosquito Coast region on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras. "They have found very serious problems with lots of very sick people, children especially, suffering from diarrhoea and skin infections," said David Osborne, the British Ambassador to Honduras. Although there was little loss of life in the region, crops were ruined in many villages, leaving them without food for months. As the recovery effort moves into a long-term reconstruction phase, local officials say the country will need as much

as \$2 billion to repair its roads, bridges, water mains, electricity and telephones. Aid officials say privately that the Honduran Government is at a loss as to where to begin. "They understand now what's hit them, but they have no idea how to deal with it," said one official. The Central America Hurricane Appeal is collecting donations for victims of the disaster. The credit card donation line is (0870) 6060 900. Cheques, made payable to The DEC Hurricane Appeal, can be sent to The DEC Hurricane Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC3A 9AA.

Debt aid for Mitch victims agreed

By JANET BUSH ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN and France committed £10 million each to a new trust fund yesterday designed to help Honduras and Nicaragua to service their debts as they begin to rebuild from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's Economy and Finance Minister, also called on the Paris Club of international creditors to agree on a moratorium of all official bilateral debt. Even if the Paris Club were to agree on it, the crisis countries would still have to service debts to multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and the trust fund is designed to do this for them. M. Strauss-Kahn went further than Mr Brown yesterday, promising that France would cancel all the debt owed to it by Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. It is believed to account for 7 per cent of Nicaragua's \$6.1 billion (£3.7 billion) foreign debt and 2 per cent of Honduras's £4.1 billion. Britain is owed small amounts, £900,000 by Nicaragua and £500,000 by Honduras. However, British officials said the Government opposed debt cancellation on principle, saying that only by remaining a creditor could Britain exert influence on developing countries to pursue sensible economic policies. Mr Brown also called yesterday for reducing the timetable for these countries to qualify for relief under the IMF and World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative. His plan would give Nicaragua some debt relief by 2001 instead of 2002. Honduras could not expect any relief for five to six years, even under Mr Brown's proposal. Janet Bush, page 29

EU wrangles over funds for human rights

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR European Union officials met last night to chart a way out of a management mess which has brought havoc to Europe's £70 million-a-year spending on human rights and threatened the existence of hundreds of projects funded by the EU to strengthen new democracies. Under fire from international organisations, the European Parliament and the EU's financial watchdogs, the Commission warily backs the Union's member governments to back the creation of a new European human rights agency. However, the critics want immediate action to ensure that millions of pounds of frozen funds reach needy projects around the world.

Spending has become snarled in a bureaucratic turf war and legal wrangling over who allocates and manages money going to projects that range from helping torture victims to training judges in Poland and promoting democracy in Africa. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, has been stung into action by an outcry from non-governmental organisations and a damning report from the EU Court of Auditors which accused the Brussels executive of "failing in its responsibility" and "resorting to shady accounting in the way it



A picture released yesterday showing Chinese personnel on structures erected on a disputed reef in the South China Sea. The Philippines Navy was ordered yesterday to block any further entry of Chinese vessels to Mischief Reef. President Estrada also ordered increased aerial patrols over the reef to support the naval blockade but his spokesman denied Manila was gearing up for a military confrontation. The spokesman said the action was "to discourage Chinese fishing vessels' entry in that particular area" and emphasised Manila's position of solving the dispute diplomatically. The Philippines last week lodged a strong diplomatic protest, accusing China of engaging in a large-scale expansion of permanent structures already erected on the

Manila reinforces blockade

Philippines-claimed reef. Manila officials said this was in violation of a "code of conduct" signed by the two nations to avoid taking further actions in the Spratlys, including Mischief Reef. The Philippines said there were indications the expanded structures could be used for military purposes. (AFP)

Greenhouse gas treaty 'doomed' by soaring American pollution

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES

AN INTERNATIONAL treaty to fight global warming is already doomed because the United States will never meet its targets on reducing emissions, the American architect of the treaty claimed yesterday. Robert Reinstein, the State Department's negotiator at the Rio conference in 1992 which adopted the Climate Change Convention, said the latest analysis of America's greenhouse gas emissions from cars, factories, homes and businesses, showed they were soaring out of control and would be around 7.2 billion tonnes by the 2010 deadline. This, he said, had put the US on course to be about 30 per cent higher in its green-



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Colombia chainsaw gang kill 13
BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT
HOODED Colombian paramilitaries wielding chainsaws killed 13 peasants and injured more than 20 others during a dawn raid on two small neighbouring villages in the central state of Antioquia. They attacked the hamlets in the belief they were inhabited by sympathisers of left-wing guerrillas in the area. State police said they found a "horrifying scene of dismembered bodies and splattered blood" in the villages of La Mona and Santa Isabel, about 155 miles from Bogotá. The group, calling itself R-20, also left behind leaflets and messages written in blood on the walls of farmers' homes, claiming responsibility. A police spokesman said the paramilitaries first used chainsaws to kill six people in La Mona before moving on to Santa Isabel. Ten of the victims were men. One was a 15-year-old girl, killed by the militiamen when they were unable to find her husband. In recent weeks paramilitaries have intensified attacks on civilians in Antioquia amid an upsurge of activity by the rebels.

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Loving someone else's children



how to be A GOOD PARENT

STEP-PARENTS AND GENES

It is not easy to love other people's children. En-dearing habits in one's own toddlers are brattishness in others. Forgiveness comes easier for errors that are home-grown.

Why, then, the step-parent who has to take on a fully-fledged family and behave as if it is his or hers. Nursery literature is stuffed with accounts of cruel step-parents who fail this demanding test, from *Cinderella to Hansel and Gretel*. A 10th-century French proverb says: "The mother of babes who clects to reward/Has taken their enemy into her bed." In any culture, at any time, you will find tales of cruel step-parents and victimised stepchildren. Until recently such stories were regarded as hangers-on from a credulous past: not even folk wisdom, but a Grimm reminder that children should be grateful for anything less than assault and battery from their natural parents. A short but fascinating book by two psychologists at Canada's McMaster University in Ontario, Martin Daly and Margot Wilson, paints a different picture. *The Truth about Cinderella* suggests that cruel step-parents are far from a myth. They are the uncomfortable, but literal, truth. The story begins with Charles Darwin. His ideas about evolution percolated at what was a century, a glacial pace. For a system, scientists believed them without really

understanding their full significance. There was a vagueness about whether natural selection operated at the level of the individual, the group, the species, at all three — or at none of them. Today all but a minority believe it operates at the level of the gene, making organisms no more than the outward expression of a covert selection taking place out of sight.

The competition is to ensure that your own genes, and not somebody else's, ring down the generations. This means that our interests are far more bound up in ensuring the survival of our own progeny than they can ever be in altruistic acts towards the progeny of others. Human beings and other animals can behave in ways that appear altruistic, and may be so. But such acts, today's Darwinians believe, are designed as a subtle form of self-promotion. They invite reciprocity and earn esteem, which enhances the breeding chances of the altruist.

Most try to love them as they would their own

Applying this uncomfortable doctrine to humans took even longer, even though the evidence was there. For example, in 1977, Gary Becker, the economist, showed from American demographic data that while having children within a marriage reduces the divorce rate, having stepchildren increases it. He concluded that genetic children have a value beyond the simply economic, while stepchildren do not.

Finding the argument per-



Children's literature has always been full of accounts of cruel step-parents. But is blood really thicker than water?

suasive, Daly and Wilson set out to discover whether stepchildren really do suffer more abuse than genetic children. This is not entirely straightforward because there are a number of possible confounding factors and the US census, with which the two began their research, does not distinguish between genetic, adoptive and step-relationships.

In Finland, a survey of 9,000 15-year-old girls showed that 3.7 per cent of those living with a stepfather claimed to have been sexually abused, compared with 0.2 per cent of those living with a genetic father. Daly and Wilson's findings have not made them universally popular, with their evidence described by some critics as "biased and biased". Even those who accept that stepchildren have, on average, a harder time than genetic children, have been reluctant to criticise step-families. Why? "Perhaps the main reason is that the writers feel the step-family life is

hard enough, without adding to the stigma," they say. They deal brutally with the "vacuous pap" put forward by psychologists to explain why step-relationships are so difficult — for example, the theory that the role is "incompletely institutionalised" and step-parents simply don't know what to do.

Daly and Wilson say: "Some step-parents do indeed describe their anxiety as a kind of perplexity, but this is surely a sign of internal motivational conflicts rather than of the absence of a script. People are ambivalent when they have conflicting desires." Yet the majority of step-parents do not abuse the children in their care, and do their very best to love them as they would their own. They take them on as part of the deal, im-

PLICIT or explicit, that they strike with the natural parent. Some may be able to feel a love for them that is almost indistinguishable from that for their own children, others may not.

At a time when the family is under threat from divorce and from those who claim all arrangements for raising children — so long as they are "loving" — are equally valid, it is also a reminder of the power of kinship. There are different kinds of love, and parental love does genuinely seem to be of a different character. Blood really is thicker than water.

NIGEL HAWKES

© The Truth about Cinderella is one of a series of four short books deriving from a programme of lectures and seminars organised at the London School of Economics on different aspects of Darwinism. They are all published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.99.

CHILDREN AND PEERS

When *The Nurture Assumption* was published in America last month, it sent shockwaves through the academic world because its author, Judith Harris, questioned the power that parents have to shape the personalities of their children.

Three years ago, 60-year-old Harris was an unknown grandmother with a psychology degree, writing college textbooks on developmental psychology at her home in New Jersey. "Like every other writer in this field, I subscribed to the idea that personality and behaviour are shaped by our parents," she says. "That belief has remained unshakable since it was propounded by Freud. I really believed it, too — until, by examining more of the research on which my books were based, I noticed inconsistencies. Many studies linking home environment with child development were poor, and I realised that I was dealing with a myth."

The sort of questions to which Harris wanted answers were, for example, why do the children of recent immigrants soon speak their new language fluently, without an accent? And why do identical twins, reared together, grow up to be as different from one another as identical twins brought up in different families?

"We know that roughly 50 per cent of our personality is due to our genes," she says. "That means that the other 50 per cent is formed by our environment. But whether that means home, as Freud maintained, is another matter. My question was why no attention had been paid to children's outside environment, especially between six and 12, when they form peer groups."

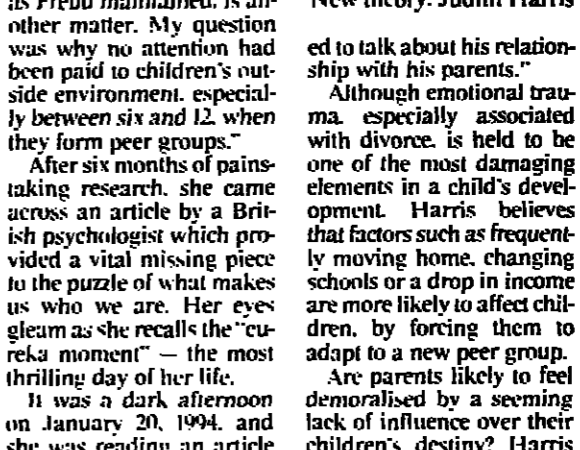
After six months of painstaking research, she came across an article by a British psychologist which provided a vital missing piece to the puzzle of what makes us who we are. Her eyes gleamed as she recalls the "eureka moment" — the most thrilling day of her life.

It was a dark afternoon on January 20, 1994, and she was reading an article on juvenile delinquency which suggested that teenagers act illegally in order to gain the status and privileges of adulthood. "That can't be right," I thought. In a flash it dawned on me that it must be the other way around. Teenagers aren't trying to be like adults, or they would be doing responsible tasks. They are distinguishing themselves from adults.

As children, we identify not with our parents but with a group consisting of our peers: no matter how we act at home, we adapt our behaviour to fit in with them. That is the cornerstone of Harris's theory; and it runs contrary to our fundamental beliefs in the vulnerability and dependence of children, and their need for a secure home.

What enrages some childcare experts is her claim that children are not as fragile as we think, and will mostly not end up irretrievably damaged by the occasional slap, by a divorce, or by being brought up by a busy working mother or single parent.

"They have to be tough because the world doesn't handle them with kid gloves," Harris says. "They learn that early. I just had a letter from the mother of a boy born cross-eyed who was picked on incessantly at school, never made friends and grew up suffering from severe depression. His parents doted on him but psychiatrists only want-



New theory: Judith Harris

ed to talk about his relationship with his parents.

Although emotional trauma, especially associated with divorce, is held to be one of the most damaging elements in a child's development, Harris believes that factors such as frequently moving home, changing schools or a drop in income are more likely to affect children, by forcing them to adapt to a new peer group.

Are parents likely to feel demoralised by a seeming lack of influence over their children's destiny? Harris thinks not. "They should worry less about being model parents," she says.

And there is another implication: in choosing where to live, how often to move and which school to send their children to, parents surely have more, not less, potential to guide their children's future.

ALEX KIRSTA
© The Nurture Assumption by Judith Harris is published by Bloomsbury, £18.99.

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The monkeys that eat less and live longer



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

WORMS do it, flies do it and it seems monkeys do it, too. At a recent meeting in Reston, Virginia, three American teams who are raising rhesus monkeys on very restricted diets gave a progress report. They aim to see whether restricting calories to low levels increases lifespan, as it does in worms, flies and rodents. The evidence, though not conclusive, suggests that it does.

The monkeys in the trials are only in middle age, but they show fewer signs of age-related diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer than do their better-fed siblings. Whether any human being would choose starvation rations in order to win a few extra years is doubtful, but the experiments could tease out the reasons and provide a less unpleasant way of achieving the same result.

The groups — led by Dr Mark Lane at the US National Institute on Ageing, Richard Weindruch at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Dr Barbara Hansen at the University of Maryland in Baltimore — all had similar findings. Science reports. The NIA and Wisconsin teams provide their rhesus monkeys with 30 per cent fewer calories than control monkeys, while the Maryland team has adjusted the diet so that the monkeys gain no more weight than they carried in early adulthood. With these diets the monkeys are clearly hungry a good part of the time. They eat faster than control monkeys but become more excited if accidentally given extra food. But their behaviour shows no particular signs of stress, and their health is good. They all have lower blood cholesterol and blood pressure, better insulin sensitivity and lower level of diabetes. The most striking result came from the NIA group, which has found the first possible signs of increased lifespan. Of 120 monkeys on the restricted diet, one has so far died, compared with five of the 120 controls.

"The message from the monkeys is that 99.9 per cent of those markers that we've examined behave exactly as they do in rodents," says Dr Lane. The only real problem so far observed is delayed sexual and skeletal maturity. None of the monkeys has been bred, however, so it is not clear whether their fertility has been affected.

Rats and mice live up to 40 per cent longer on severely restricted diets, and if the same is true of monkeys, it will be a long time before the final results of these experiments are in. The normal lifespan of a rhesus monkey is 40, and these test animals are in their twenties. Even if they do live longer, interpreting the results could be a challenge.

Dr Roy Walford of the University of California at Los Angeles says that restricting calories does not necessarily distinguish between different theories of ageing. This is because it has many effects: improving the repair of DNA, decreasing the damage done by free radicals produced by metabolism, preserving the immune system and regulating insulin. So the monkeys may tell us that it works, but not why. It might have been quicker to study the longevity of jockeys, or monks who lead an abstinence life — two groups as familiar with the nagging feeling of hunger as the rhesus monkeys.

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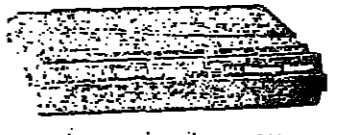
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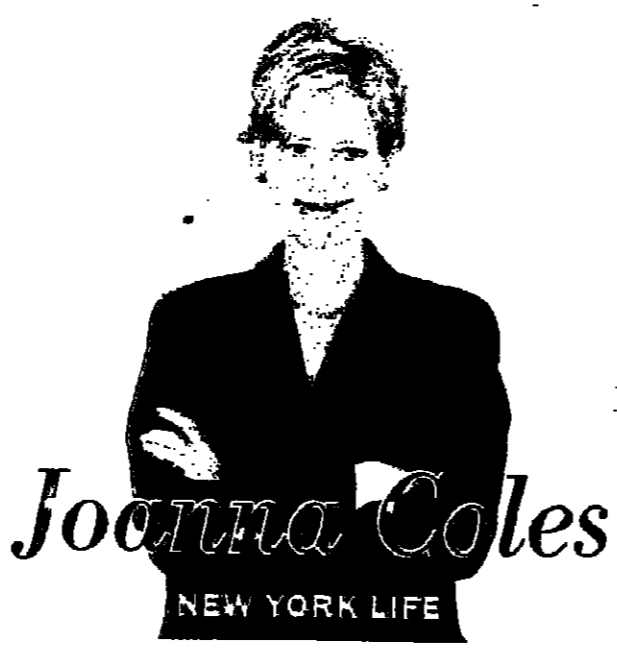
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Forget oatbran, it's bison for breakfast

Wednesday morning: "The New Meat-Eaters of Manhattan" hollers a headline on the front page of today's New York Observer. Meat, it preaches confidently, is back in fashion. This is of special interest to me, since pregnancy books have warned me off our staple diet of sushi — raw fish being taboo — and we are casting around for dietary alternatives.
It seems that models at Moomba, currently the city's coolest hangout, are abandoning char-grilled vegetables by the forkload and have become born-again carnivores, feasting on the rarest, pinkest slivers of lamb.
"Fashion parties now include slabs of foie gras on positing trays," the piece nods approvingly. It also quotes from Protein Power, an "anti-carbohydrate" bestseller that advocates steak and eggs for breakfast: pork ribs for lunch — or a double burger dressed with a hat of bacon and cheese and a scarf of lettuce.
The secret of that charmed combo, high energy and low

body fat, say the anti-carb gurus. Doctors Michael and Mary Dan Eades, is to toss your oatbran and yoghurt down the garbage disposal and to eat nothing but pure protein.
Personally I have my doubts, but Peter is rather enthusiastic and reads out an ad he has just circled in The New York Times.
"A mouthwatering steak you can enjoy without guilt. Sure, because bison are back! A good thing, too, because bison is one of Nature's most perfect foods. It is succulent and delicious, not a bit strong or gamey. And bison is much lower in calories, fat and cholesterol than beef, chicken or even fish. Call now for a guilt-free gourmet experience."
Wednesday afternoon: "Thank you for calling SayersBrook Bison Ranch. My name is Mercedes, how can I help you today?"
"I'd like to order some bison steaks."
"Oh, I love your accent,"



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

and I found a whole disco outfit for \$15! It was over near the Luxembourg Gardens."
"That's great," I murmur.
"I also went to the Doc Marten store in Covent Garden, but they were no cheaper than they are in Omaha! Now you want the four bison steaks, right?"
"Yes."
"And with that you will get a free SayersBrook hunter's stew," she says, taking my address. "I lift weights but when I left London, I couldn't lift my suitcase! That's gonna be \$39.98 with shipping and it's been nice talking to you!"
Friday: In advance of the steaks themselves, the SayersBrook Bison Ranch catalogue arrives, a glossy ode to the bison, "the red meat of the new millennium", packed with glowing testimonials from contented bison eaters.
"Paula and I have always eaten lean, healthy foods," raves Peter Fasseas, the president of the Metropolitan Bank Group, Chicago. "We are convinced of its arterial

cleansing power as a heart attack preventer!"
"Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with blocked arteries," declares John Brouk (winner of 12 gold medals, Senior Olympics 80-84 age group). "I began eating bison on a regular basis. My last blood test showed that the blockages were gone. I wholeheartedly believe that my gold medals are due in a big way to bison meat."
There is also a photograph of Jimmy Powell, a professional golfer, and his cherubic wife, "Delores and I attribute our increased energy levels to our diet of bison meat. Wow, it's like a hole in one!"
It turns out that bison is the chameleon of meats. "It looks like the best ham. It tastes like the finest ham. It's really the best North American bison!" There are bison bratwurst; bison hot dogs; corned bison; ground bison; a large wicker "Herd of Bison Gift Basket" (comprising 18 pieces of pressed bison jerky, grazing on a bed of artificial grass

around a cactus-shaped cheddar) and lastly, bison gift certificates.
All orders, readers are assured, will come with "complete, easy-to-follow preparation instructions."
Monday: The doorman buzzes up to announce that we have a delivery. It is a bulky polystyrene box. We prise it open to find four individually frozen bison steaks nestling in a bed of smoking dry ice. Peter holds up one of the bloody sachets. "It looks like we've just had a delivery from an organ donor," he says.
As promised, there is also our inducement of free "hunter's stew", plus a letter headed "A Special Message Just For You!" But there is no message, the letter is blank.
Tuesday: We decide to follow Protein Power's advice and begin our new regime with a bison steak breakfast. Despite the catalogue's assurances, there are no cooking instructions included, so we

drag out our dusty recipe books for some advice. But Pru Leith, Caroline Waldegrave, Sophie Grigson and even the River Café books are all bison-free zones.
"I suppose we should just treat it as beef steak," Peter says doubtfully. He fires up the gas cooker and I toss two steaks into a frying pan, with a pile of chopped onions and a squirt of olive oil. The bison shanks fizzle alarmingly, then settle. After a couple of minutes a side, I cut into one to test it, but its core is still unacceptably bloody for a pregnant woman.
Another couple of minutes and the red is still there. It seems it is impossible to cook them through. Eventually, I serve them up and we sit down to our bison breakfast.
"Mmm," ruminates Peter, sampling them like a TV gourmand. "Pleasantly gamey. If a bit on the chewy side. What do you think?"
"Fine..." I say, still chewing. Though secretly I find myself hankering for a bowl of Special K.

Saved by a tin helmet

On Armistice Day, Magnus Linklater, below, writes of his father's war and Dominic Walsh remembers a relative who died

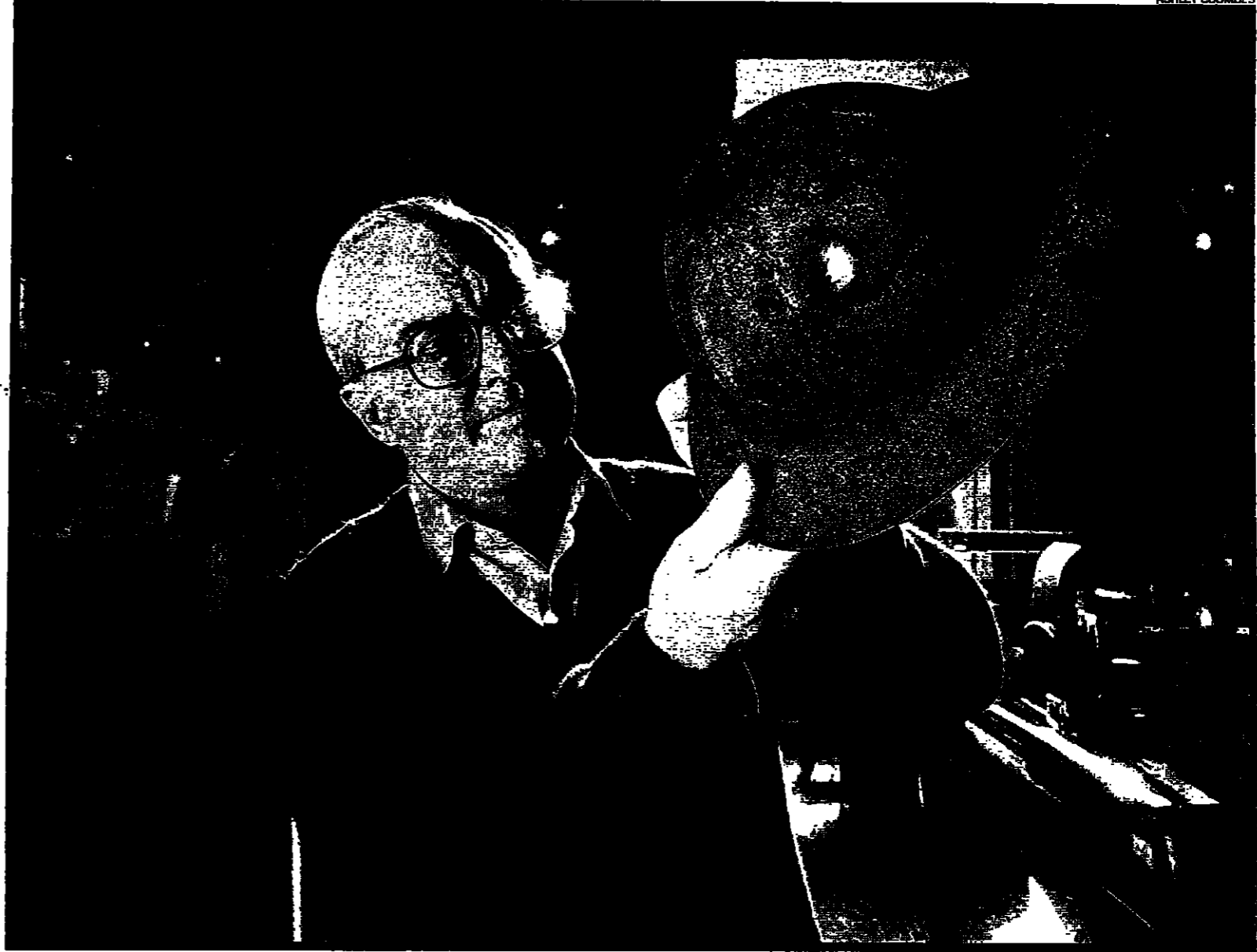
On the bookcase beside me is a tin helmet, scarred and pitted, its leather lining hanging down. At the back of it, almost dead centre, is a small entry hole where the bullet went in. On the right-hand side, above the ear, is a jagged tangle of metal where it came out, its path deflected by the protecting steel. That helmet is as precious an object as anything I have, a reminder of my father's miraculous escape in the trenches of Ypres. It speaks of the horrors of a war that destroyed a generation. It is the reason that we, his family, are here.
How he survived at all is beyond comprehension. It was April 11, 1918, and my father, barely 19 (he had added a year to his age to join up as a private in the Black Watch), was crouching in an unfinished trench near the village of Voormezele. A sniper, he was attempting to hold off a German advance, but his ammunition had run out and his rifle was too hot to hold. He had two grenades left. He threw one, and was reaching for the second when he looked back and saw the trench behind him was empty, save for one man who had stayed to warn him that the platoon was retreating. This is how he described what happened next:
"I threw my second bomb and turned to run. I ran so fast that, although I was the last by a long way to leave the trench, within 200 yards I had passed several of those who had preceded me, including an officer who was looking back with an expression of reticence that, in the circumstances, appeared strangely ill-timed.
"I continued to run until, in a mingling of righteous indignation and utter dismay, I felt on my head a blow of indescribable force. It was a bullet, probably a machine-gun bullet, for the rifle fire of the German infantry was poor. When I recovered consciousness the sur-

rounding landscape appeared entirely empty. But I could not see very well, and perhaps I was mistaken. A few shots that were evidently hostile gave me a rough direction, and with clumsy fingers I took from a pocket in the lining of my tunic a little package of field dressings. I could not undo it, but stuck it whole on the back of my head, where I judged the wound to be, and kept it in position with my steel helmet, that a chinstrap held tightly on."
With his sight going, he fell into a waterlogged trench and almost drowned. But by abandoning his rifle, tunic and



Eric Linklater, novelist, 1899-1974

father for life: there was a dent in the back of his head where the bullet had ploughed through his skull; as children we pretended to post letters in it. But the effects were not just physical. He wrote ferociously, travelled unceasingly, demanded the highest standards, not just from himself, but from his family and friends. It did not always make him easy to live with. An uproarious sense of humour was matched by occasionally seismic rages. It was as if, having survived the war against all expectations and seen so many of his companions die, he had to compensate continually for their loss; he made the most of the time and opportunities he had so unexpectedly been allowed. He expected others to do the same.
He never talked about the horror of the trenches, where the duckboards were smashed by shells and more people died of drowning than by enemy fire. He destroyed the letters he wrote to his mother, although they contained little more than reassuring banter ("I am sorry the news you got flattered your dovecot... I, too, felt slightly fluttered when I fell"). Like other survivors, he rarely discussed the war, except for a few well-rehearsed jokes: the day the battalion retreated in the pouring rain and the men were told to wear their kilts as capes ("We said goodbye to Passchendaele with a flunter of grey shirt-tails dancing behind our bums"); or the joy of finding vintage champagne in an otherwise deserted French house.
The real story was either too painful or personal to pass on to his children. Perhaps it was our fault. In one of his autobiographies, *Fanfare for a Tin Hat*, he wrote: "My children never incited me, even in a whisper, to tell them of the part I took." That may have been because we sensed a barrier, behind which lay things



Steeley resolve: Magnus Linklater inspects the tin helmet that saved his father's life in the First World War. A light shines through the bullet hole

so deep and dark that we dared not intrude too far. In his novel *The Impregnable Women* there was a flash of it: "The dead were yielding to corruption. They no longer lay gaunt and rigid, but huddled softly in the mud. When the frost melted in their flesh the starkness of their last agony had relaxed and the icy preservation of their youth dissolved... They were no more to be recognised as the sons of men, but as parcels of the troubled earth."
I sense that there was something else he found impossible to share — the intensity of the experience. He once described it thus: "My few weeks as a sniper gave to my life an excitement, an intensity, which I have never known since... I lived at a high pitch of purpose, a continuous physical and mental alertness that has never again suffused my brain, and body — and which in later years my body and brain could not have sustained." It is something that those who have not experienced war at first hand will never truly understand.

Fate of a Titanic newsboy

THE upsurge of interest in the fate of the *Titanic* has meant a repeated airing of one of the most enduring images of that disaster: the youthful news vendor on a London street corner holding a poster announcing the disaster.
Though the loss of life from the sinking of the ship in 1912 is well-documented, the picture hides a private tragedy. Six years later that young man — my great-uncle, Ned Parfitt — was killed at 22 during a German bombardment while serving in France, days before the Armistice.
He had enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1916, serving for a period as a dispatch rider before being assigned to reconnaissance duties. He was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Military Medal for his gallant conduct during a series of missions.
After his death, the officer who recommended him for



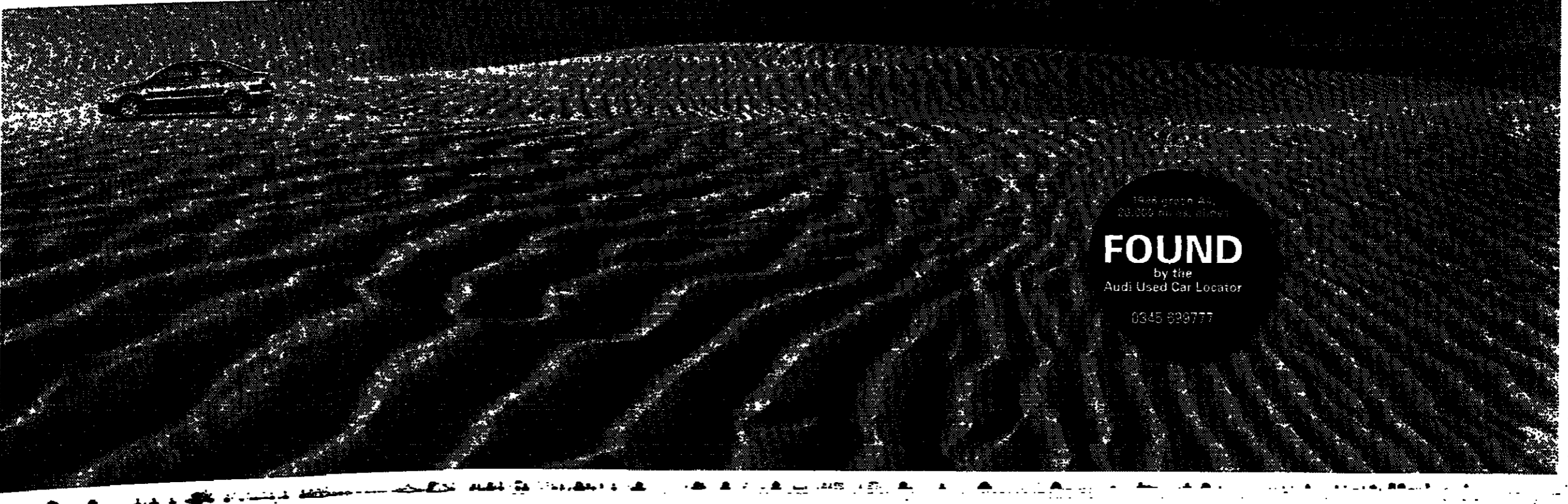
Ned Parfitt: enduring image

the slaughter of the Somme, only to be wounded and gassed at the third battle of Ypres.
Of the four brothers, only Ned failed to make it. He died on October 29, 1918, near Valenciennes, when a shell landed on the quartermaster's stores just as he was collecting some clothes before going home on leave. If he had survived the attack, he would have been at home when the

Armistice was signed. He lies in the British cemetery at Verchain-Maugré.
The famous image of Ned on the corner of Trafalgar Square has assured him a place in history. His medals and the gravestone in a corner of a French cemetery ensure that his bravery will not be forgotten by his family, despite the passing of the years.
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The First Lady is a champ

She makes Republicans look dowdy, says Bronwen Maddox

If you doubt that Hillary Clinton is aiming eventually for high political office — and probably for a new husband — take a look at the pictures in the December issue of *Vogue*. Taken just before the November 3 elections by star photographer Annie Leibovitz for the American edition, but now circulating widely, they are the most flattering — in fact, beautiful — published of the First Lady.

Against the pale blue sky of a Washington autumn morning, framed by the White House's classical pillars, Hillary sits at a small breakfast table on the Truman balcony, working quietly at a sheaf of papers. Every detail is inserted with the calculation of a Vermeer portrait: the angled pen and the professional tilt at which she holds the report show she means business; the gold-rimmed coffee cup echoes her wedding ring, also reflected in the table top. Her hair is swept gracefully but softly back; the open-necked white shirt has a touch of Meryl Streep in *Out of Africa*, that tale of feminine grit during personal disaster.

Those shots of Hillary are the most memorable image from the campaign season. Normally an American election, passionately fought against a backdrop of banners and balloons, to a soundtrack of the nation's best rock music, thrusts at least half a dozen powerful figures prominently on to the national stage.

Not this one. Yes, we have Jesse "The Body" Ventura, the former wrestler who is the new governor of Minnesota. With verbal gifts outstripping that of most politicians, he deserves his new self-awarded title of "The Mind", not least for dubbing his former profession "ballet with violence".

But for all the unexpected drama of the Democrats' triumph, the past week has left national politics with a cast of breathtaking dullness. That goes above all for those now trying to fill the Newt-shaped hole in the capital's political scene.

The night before last, Newt Gingrich chose the landmark Willard Hotel for the first round of his farewell since his resignation as Speaker on Friday. The Willard is not an easy place in which to shine: oppressively refurbished in the Washington style which flatters the building at the expense of the occupants; chandeliers glinting off bald spots, heavy drapes echoing the heaviness of the women's double-breasted suits. But Mr Gingrich showed why he has effortlessly been a political star, rousing a stodgy crowd to its feet with a call for the new Republican leaders to keep their ideas fresh and wide-ranging.

They will disappoint him. Robert Livingston, his friend of 20 years, who now seems unchallenged for the succession, has been described as approaching politics like carpentry. He takes the pieces into a back room, worries

The new Newts are dull and stodgy to a man

away at them, and emerges many hours later to announce proudly "Look, I've built a little consensus." A tall, grey, stooping man, he has been caught on television in only one moment of animation, some years ago: waving his arms, shouting and stomping self-consciously, he looked like an A-level schoolboy trying to act the storm scene from *King Lear*. His storm rang immediately from Louisiana to tell him he looked "like a lunatic", and he hasn't done it since.

But he towers above the runners for the party's other top jobs on Capitol Hill, thrown open after Mr Gingrich's exit. They might as well go by the label of "the usual suspects", given that their names will never be household words. One after the other, they pop up in the television studios, with their Thunderbird-style hairlines and their vanishingly thin top lips, they look like John Major's *Spitting Image* puppet, gently washed with a light orange tan.

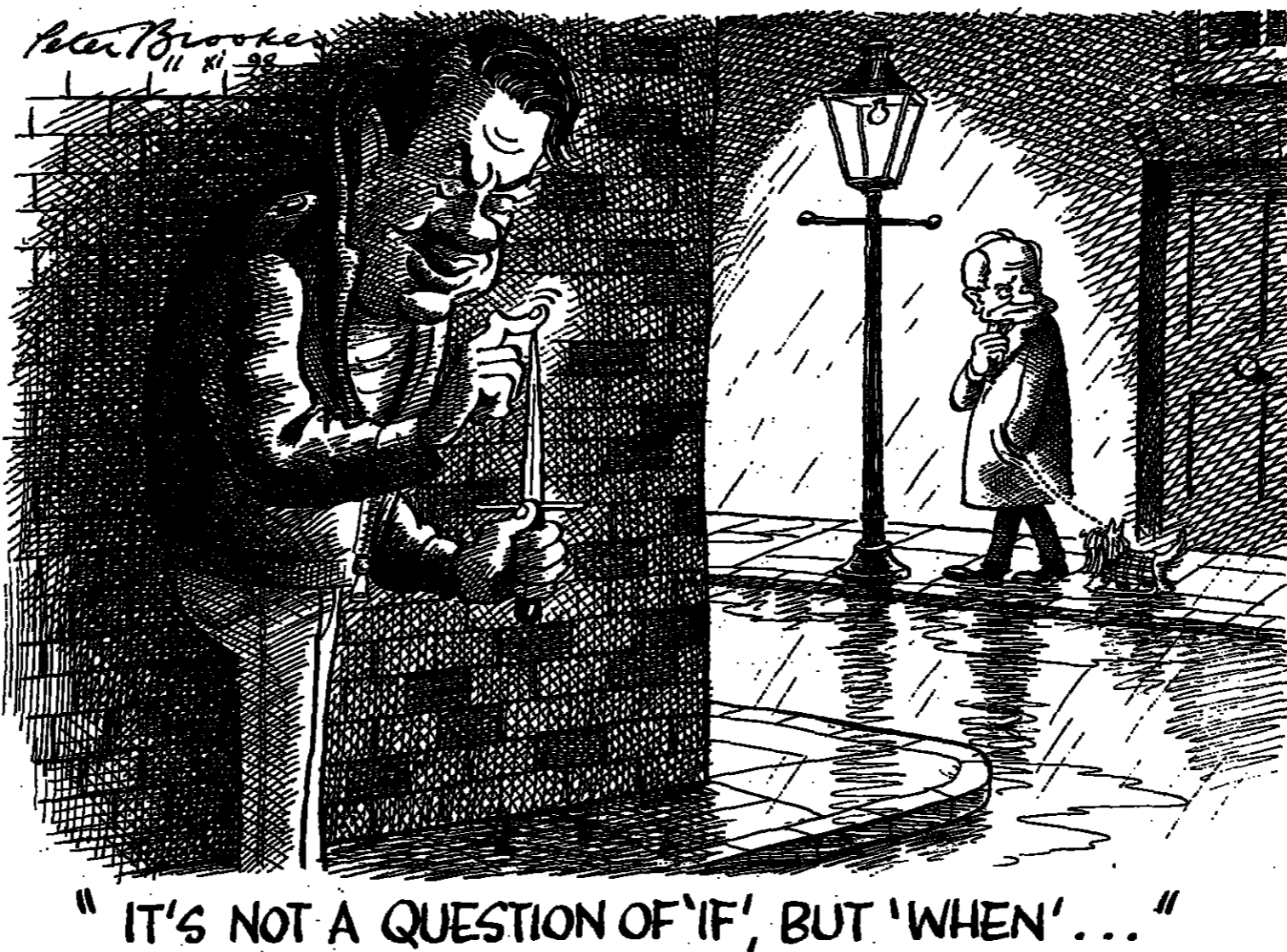
They have little to say, and they say it badly, exposing both the shallowness of their characters and of the party's current thinking. They are all tax-cutters, except perhaps discussing an economic slowdown, and yes, we might be on the verge of one of those: they all uphold family values, but are silent on the party's rifts over abortion.

Sensitive to the charge that Newt competes to claim greatness. Jennifer Dunn of Washington State implored colleagues to "employ someone like me who is a communicator, someone who connects". J.C. Watts, the party's only black in Congress, who is running for Conference Chairman, said: "We're individuals, as Republicans, but we've got to take a serious look at this teamwork thing."

It will take a more powerful and articulate performance to protect the party against future election reversals. That is one reason, among many, why there is a buzz around Hillary. She is now confidently tipped for a Senate career, only one among many glittering options that are undeniably available.

Hillary had, by common agreement, a dazzling campaign season, giving powerful speeches across the country. But she and the President spent election night separately, we are told by *Newsweek* magazine. She invited her girlfriends to the White House movie theatre to watch *Beloved*, the new Oprah Winfrey epic about slavery. Her husband was huddled in his Chief of Staff's office, glued to the exit polls which spelled out his vindication, and then surfed the Net long into the night.

If impressive Republican leadership does not emerge, he may be able to spend future election nights happily watching Democratic victories. Not least the triumph of his wife, or former wife, as she may be then have chosen to be.



"IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF 'IF', BUT 'WHEN'..."

Blair's heir apparent?

Is Mandelson being groomed as a future party leader? His friends and foes think so, argues Roland Watson

Could Peter Mandelson one day become leader of the Labour Party? A few years ago, simply posing the question would have been judged a sign of lunacy. Even bookmakers would have declined to waste their time offering odds on such a patent absurdity. Just a few months ago it would have registered equally impressively on a register of nonsensical propositions.

Even raising the possibility today is to be accused of failing to appreciate the soul of the Labour Party and what makes it tick. Mr Mandelson, it is argued, is too deeply unpopular with too many people and has been for too long to have the remotest of chances.

Yet there are those at Westminster who are beginning to think the unthinkable, imagine the unimaginable and whisper the unwelcome: that the minister formerly known as the Prince of Darkness might, just might one day go one better than his grandfather Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister to Clement Attlee, and inherit the Labour crown.

Mr Mandelson has been in the news a great deal lately, despite the BBC's best efforts. After his promotion to the Cabinet in the summer he hasn't merely blinked into the limelight so much as blazed a trail. Even before the controversy over his sexuality, he was making headlines.

His emergence from the shadows has been conducted with extraordinary zeal and determination. In a matter of months he has transformed himself from a behind-the-scenes manager of the message to becoming a central part of the message in his own right. Barely four years ago his alienation from the centre of Labour power under John Smith's leadership was absolute. The transformation is stunning. He is a top-table member of the new Labour establishment. He could even argue his case as a member of the Establishment, if there is still a difference. He is the only member of the Government to attend Prince Charles' 50th birthday party.

The combination of Mr Mandelson's promotion to the Cabinet and his ensuing zest for a high-profile political life have lodged one tantalising thought in the minds of more than a few MPs: that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may be beginning to believe that he could take over from Tony Blair. He may even be being groomed for the job.

"There is a definite agenda here. I

am quite clear about that, for Mandelson to succeed Blair," according to one senior Labour MP. That the words come from someone owing their allegiance to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor whose relationship with Mr Mandelson verges from hostile to distrustful, should act as a warning.

Members of the Brown camp are not alone in perceiving an agenda, which has been fuelled by Philip Gould's book *The Unfinished Revolution*, serialised in *The Times*. Written with the blessing of No 10 by one of Mr Blair's most senior advisers, the book gives Mr Mandelson a peerless role in saving the party from self-destruction. But its attempt to clear him of deceiving Mr Brown during the jostling for position in the days following Smith's death has prompted charges that Mr Gould has rewritten history to nail the most damaging charge held against Mr Mandelson within the party.

If the aim of Gould's book was to assuage the suspicions of the Brownites, it has failed. One MP close to the Chancellor said the book had been discussed briefly by Mr Brown and his team — and ominously for Mr Mandelson — "stored in the memory". On the basis that there is nothing more gripping to political career than being talked of as a future leader, the Brown camp may be talking Mr Mandelson's ambitions up in the hope of dashing them.

But Mr Mandelson's ambitions hardly need talking up. He has been busy himself, matching relish for his guss-up job with artful construction of a power base from his DTI office. His courtship with business has been energetic. "We are intensely relaxed about people getting filthy rich," he told computer executives last month in California's Silicon Valley.

Addressing the CBI conference last week, he was notably more assured than at the Labour conference. His detractors would suggest he felt more at home with his Birmingham audi-

ence of businessmen than the party faithful in Blackpool. But it may simply be that he is developing greater confidence in public. He has courted not only new Labour's new friends, but also more traditional constituencies. He described the idea that General Pinochet could claim diplomatic immunity as "gut-wrenching". It may have earned him criticism from the Tories, but it secured a congratulatory Commons motion from Tony Benn.

But the most fascinating alliance he has forged with the Left is within his own department. His relationship with his DTI Number Two, Ian McCartney, is developing into one of Westminster's most surprising double-acts.

They are both clearly making a huge effort and are said to get on better than anyone could imagine. That is possibly because they both need each other. Mr McCartney self-evidently needs the support of his boss. But Mr Mandelson needs him more. Mr McCartney is the Government's leading left-winger outside the Cabinet. He enjoys almost cult standing among the rank and file. As Peter's friend he could do wonders for Mr Mandelson's standing in a party which knows him chiefly from grapevine sniping rather than at first hand.

Mr Mandelson has been attracting rave reviews elsewhere. The adulatory *Newswatch* leader that greeted his "outing" on *Newswatch* was described by one Downing Street source as "the most significant thing that has happened for a long time, both politically and sociologically". Mr Blair has, it is said, discussed Mr Mandelson's position on the issue, but the minister is still anxious to place it firmly in the background. The generally welcoming reception for Nick Brown's decision to come out has, however, altered the calculation. It may no longer be unthinkable that modernising Britain may culminate in electing a gay Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson has, meanwhile, been courting coverage in the most unlikely quarters. His decision to drop in for dinner at the home of Matthew Norman, the *Guardian* diarist and merciless tormentor of the minister, had most observers assuming the news was a joke. It wasn't. One of Mr Mandelson's friends described the event as the PR equivalent of getting the *Sun* to back Labour. "Maybe more significant". Another, from No 10, said: "Peter has obviously decided to mend fences with everyone he has ever fallen out with. It's going to take a long time."

Even if Mr Mandelson has decided he wants to be friends with everyone, how will he overcome the most obvious stumbling block, namely that the Labour leader is chosen by the members, not a media-political elite?

One version of events could go something like this. By the time of the next election victory Mr Mandelson has spent three steady years at the DTI, during which the introduction of the minimum wage, working time directive and workplace rights package has earned him the nickname "the workers' friend". Mr Blair makes him Foreign Secretary. Meanwhile, the party moves into its next phase of internal modernisation. The link with the trade unions is cut and the electoral college used to elect leaders is abolished and replaced by one-member-one-vote.

After five years strutting the world stage, Mr Mandelson looks like a statesman. He has been at the heart of Britain's entry into the single currency and has cemented Britain's role as the European Union's unofficial leader. Following a third election victory Mr Blair tires and, with a party membership which boasts few remaining traditionalists and is 80 per cent middle class, Mr Mandelson slides effortlessly into No 10. Over-imaginative, perhaps. But impossible? Six years ago he was not even an MP.

Last week Mr Blair made a little noticed speech to sixth-formers. In drumming home his message about the need for permanent revolution at the heart of the Labour Party, the Prime Minister predicted that when it came to his retirement, he would be replaced by a moderniser who made him look positively old-fashioned. Whom could he have had in mind?

Peter's ambitions hardly need talking up

Simon Jenkins is away.

Lord's gong

EIGHTY years after hanging up his tin hat, Lord Denning is to be honoured by the French for his efforts in the trenches during the First World War. Daniel Bernard, the French Ambassador, is to bring Britain's most whimsical judge a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, in place of Gérard Depardieu (pictured with Denning) who may be stripped of his title due to his boorishness. The former Master of the Rolls, 99 not out, is among 300 surviving British veterans to be honoured. His stint in the Royal Engineers from 1917 to 1919 qualified him for France's highest gong. The ambassador will drop by Denning's Hampshire pad to honour him. "I am very pleased they have recognised the value we youngsters gave during 1918," he tells me. "It was a critical year and we only just won. We were a group of youngsters but we held the line."

A Frenchy confirms that Denning's award pays tribute to his valour. I hope no one recalls his secret for long life. "By eating plain English food," he replied. "I don't want any of that French stuff."

THE ultimate horror Christmas gift: It Could Be You. An Autobiography by Jeremy Beadle.

THE riddle of what happened to the king's giraffe could have been solved by Lord St John of Fawley. Despite numerous false trails — including a giraffe museum in La Rochelle which read of the mystery



here, but actually turned out to house the giraffe's late sister — Fawley has learnt of a dissected beast in the bowels of the Natural History Museum. An extensive examination is planned.

Tactical talk

IN THE midst of the Balkans skirmish, General Sir Michael Rose helped his son to win a wager. The commander of the UN force in Bosnia was asked by James, then up at Durham, to insert the word "blatant" into a televised interview. If he did, the general's son would win £25 worth of beer from the Bacchanalian Barons, his drinking club.

A few days later, Rose was quoted on TV, describing yep, "blatant and flagrant disregard for the Nato ultimatum."

LATEST academic spin-off from the emerging science of PR: reputation management. This important discovery was made by one Jonathan Hill, who is going into PR after managing the reputation of Mr Popular, John Major.

Fatal blow

CHER has been told to die elsewhere. The chanteuse has dropped hints that she would like to call it a day at the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris — retirement home in the ground for those old crumbles Oscar Wilde, Maria Callas, Jim Morrison and the middle classes of Paris — and



"It's even worse on Railtrack"

hoped she would qualify as owner of a holiday home in Provence. "No," says the man at the gate. "You must live or die in Paris. We need proof — usually three months' telephone bills. The rules cannot be changed for anyone."

Legal battle

LONG, troubled nights for the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill is fearful as law lords bat around his ruling that General Pinochet enjoys immunity from prosecution. Friends say Bingham would take it as a humiliation if his decision that the general could be packed off back to Chile was overturned by the five presiding lords. "He is very tense," says a large gavel close to Bingham. "He has a very rocky relationship with the law lords and is worried they



will go the other way." Not as fearful as Pinochet, one imagines.

ARCHIE NORMAN has recruited Celine Balltrán (above), George Clooney's fragile French girlfriend, to Asda. After my note about the supermarket chairman offering his store's mixed-fibre shirts to his chum Francis Maude, news emerges of this more inviting model. "I like simplicity," says Ms Balltrán, swiftly growing accustomed to the economical product.

Alan Coren



My bitter-sweet remembrance of citrus husbandry

It is Armistice Day. It is a very big day indeed. It is the day I bring the lemon tree in. I do not mind, bring the lemon tree in because it is Armistice Day — I do not, that is, bring it in as a private memorial pact, the lemon tree does not signify some personal ritual homage to the glorious fallen, it does not, as it were, commemorate a gallant grandpa who copped it in the Dardanelles, few poppies there, in Turkish fields the lemons blow, let us therefore wear the lemon with pride, place it in the hall, stand silently beside it between 11am and 11.02. It has nothing to do with any of that. I bring it in because it is November 11, and in my gardener's diary the duties scribbled for that day are "Inspect rhyzomes for rot, dredge pond, drain mower-ump, take lemon tree in".

This fourth injunction has been there since 1993, the year the lemon tree arrived. It arrived in June, the birthday gift of a friend, and it arrived in a big herbibonned terracotta pot. It was a sturdy little plant, 3ft high, a mass of glistening healthy leaves and, dangling among them, four little green lemons the size of brazil nuts.

There was also a fifth dangling item, a booklet assuring me that if I followed the instructions on citrus husbandry, to include bringing it indoors in early November and taking it out again in late May, it would not only give me many years of wondrous fragrance when it blossomed, but also many years of lemons when it fruited.

So my generous friend and I toasted it in gins and tonics containing emblematic slices of lemon, to furnish the tree with a clear idea of where its future duties lay, and I promised him that the next time he stopped by for a snort, the lemon bobbing in his glass would have been fresh-plucked. It was a promise I was unable to keep, however, because when he came in August, the four lemons had grown neither bigger nor yellower; although I told him that they unquestionably had. After the third drink, emboldened as one gets, he said that he couldn't be sure, but he thought that one of the lemons had actually grown smaller. I laughed, quite a long laugh actually, and said he was mistaken. I had a ruler. I had measured all of them, they were coming on a treat.

By the time he returned in November, the tree was inside. I had carried it in on the 11th, a week earlier, and I was now pretty well recovered, except for a slight twinge in the neck whenever I looked to the left. He remarked that the tree had only three lemons on it, was one of them our drink, and I said yes, and he said funny, I could swear it's the smallest that's missing, and I said, yes, it had been, but it had suddenly sprung up, rather the way children do, so I had plucked it in his honour, would he like a nut? He ate the nut, a cashew that, poignantly, bore a strong resemblance, in size and consistency, to the fourth lemon; which had, as you will have guessed, fallen off while I was struggling in with the tree. As we sat there, a few leaves also fell off, and he looked at me, but I said it was autumn, they did that, it was in the book.

Which was true. It was also true that the book said the leaves would come back in May, after I had taken it outside again, but only about a dozen did, although the three lemons were still there. Something smaller by now, and greener than I recalled lemons being, but it was probably just a stage they were going through. I said to my friend at my June birthday party. Whether this was true, neither of us had the chance to discover, because another guest brushed past the tree on his way to get a drink, and the three lemons fell off. When they hit the terrace, they sounded like stones. Are you sure you're following the instructions, said my friend, and I said, to the letter, another week of sun and they'd have been enormous, but look, there's a blossom. And there was: but the next day, as I watered it, a bee climbed into the blossom and it fell off.

That was four years ago, since when no blossom at all has appeared, and, of course, no lemons. But, even as you read this, I shall be hugging it in again, because it still has a couple of curly leaves on it. Could be the last time, though. All things considered, I rather think that it shall not grow old as they are left grow old.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

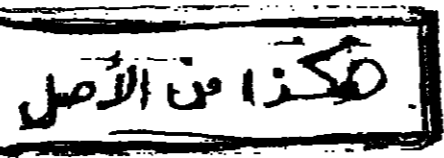
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The Four...

BREAK

MAN IN

The Lord Chancellor...





TOO VAGUE

The Tory leader can learn a little from Portillo

I William Hague chose yesterday to slap Michael Portillo down for offering him advice. Mr Hague may have felt piqued that a friend should choose to counsel him publicly in a newspaper rather than privately by telephone. But what should worry Mr Hague is not the method, but the resonance of the message. The former Defence Secretary's article attracted attention because it reflected a broad unease with the Tory leadership. Those who most wish Mr Hague to succeed have been given the greatest cause for concern by recent events. Mr Portillo is right to say that the Tories "must find their voice". Alternately too shrill and too silent, like a choirboy whose voice is breaking, the Tory leader must develop a mature tone and new themes if voters are to be tempted back. It was on Europe that Mr Portillo chose to offer advice, urging the Conservatives to build on their resounding internal vote in favour of keeping the pound. Mr Hague showed leadership in facing down his critics within his party, and established authority for his policy. But what has he done with it? The campaign against the single currency is divided. Competing groups, and egos, with different messages have so far only re-inforced the unfortunate impression that Euroscepticism is fractious and disorganised. In contrast, the pro-EMU campaign, although not without its problems, operates with a steady coherence that should goad the Tories to action. The lesson of past political successes is that victory goes to campaigns coherently led from the centre. The anti-EMU alliance should be as broad as possible, but the Tories could be more assertive in giving it shape without squeezing people out. They certainly have room to be more assertive in deploying what patronage they have left so as to promote the sceptic cause. In the past few days Mr Hague has used his right to nominate a successor to Sir Leon Brittan as European Commissioner to advance the claims of Sir Alistair Goodlad, a Clarkeite europhile. There is room in the Conservative Party for a range of views on Europe, but when it comes to choosing a Tory voice in Brussels Mr Hague should have the courage to nominate someone more his own mould. If Mr Blair accepted such a nominee, the

Tories would have a powerful advocate at the Commission. And if Mr Blair rejected a sceptical candidate, a political opportunity would have been created to emphasise an issue to Mr Hague's advantage and paint the Prime Minister as improperly partisan. It is not only abroad that the Tories have flinched from the fight. The party leadership's decision to allow Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare an unimpeded run at the nomination for London's mayor is an abdication of responsibility. Lord Archer has many talents, but a flair for fiction is not what is required to run the capital city. The Tories do not have many opportunities to make the weather, and show they have learnt the lessons of defeat. There appears to be a complacency at the highest level which attributes Labour's success to spin and believes the electorate will return to their Tory roots in time. They will not, unless they are given new and positive reasons to return. The Tories are not even making the most of those opportunities which Labour gives them. When the Government showed immaturity in its handling of the arrest of General Pinochet the Tories were silent. Faced with factory closures they have been shrill in denunciation, but silent on alternatives. The Tories may not wish to take a position, so far in advance of the election, on detailed economic policy. But on the broad questions there is precious little evidence of a coherent lead. Should the State be smaller? If so then how can that be reconciled with indications, repeated yesterday by John Redwood, that health and education spending should increase? Mr Hague is, apparently, exercised about the Tories' failure to get their message across. New committees have been set up; new figures are to be hired. But, instead of worrying about how messages are communicated, whether by Mr Portillo or himself, Mr Hague should worry about what is to be said. New projects which engage and excite are required. Unless new reasons are advanced to support the Tories, the party will only resent the movement away from traditional positions on issues such as reform of the Lords. The failure to take risks now in re-defining the Tories would be the biggest risk of all.

BREAKING WAVE

Change sweeps over the 'remote Bermudas'

B Bermuda is Britain's oldest colony, first settled when Sir George Somers was shipwrecked there en route to Virginia in 1609. For almost 400 years, Marvell's "remote Bermudas" of "golden lamps in a green night" have echoed as poetically in the British imagination as the "hollow seas" rolling onto its shores. Its Assembly, which first met in 1620, is the oldest legislature in the Commonwealth outside Britain. Bermuda yesterday saw a momentous change: a general election has swept to power for the first time the Progressive Labour Party, ousting the United Bermuda Party which has held office for the 30 years that party politics have been allowed. In itself, political change legitimised by a turn-out of 81 per cent is a sign of a vibrant democracy. But many Bermudians are anxious. For the PLP victory has brought into focus two issues that could undermine the settled prosperity of this Atlantic jewel: racial divisions and the question of independence. The PLP's core support comes from Bermuda's blacks, whose lot it is committed to improve. But there are fears, held not only by racists but by many in the black majority, that the inexperienced party will mismanage the economy, especially the vital financial sector. The party has embraced independence as an essential route not only to self-determination but to a more equal society, and campaigned hard against the "British" establishment. Independence, however, has been a less potent vote-winner than in

Britain's younger former colonies. In a landmark referendum in 1995, which turned largely on Bermuda's economic prospects as an independent nation, voters overwhelmingly chose to remain one of Britain's dwindling number of dependent territories — now renamed overseas territories. The vote was a slap in the face for the then Premier, Sir John Swan, who resigned. Even the PLP has opted for caution, promising to take the matter no further in this Parliament. The issue could be overtaken by Britain's proposals to restore full citizenship to all its overseas territories. For Bermudians this opens up prospects of education, employment and visa-free travel throughout the European Union. But there is a price, which many resent. Britain is insisting on tighter financial regulation and more transparency, to stop money laundering and to police the shadowy frontier between tax avoidance and tax evasion. The Government would be wise not to gamble that Bermuda's offshore industry would do better on its own. It has enough to do to meet its pledges of social change without stoking fears about its competence or opening new racial divisions. Bermuda, with 60,000 people, accounts for a third of the overseas territories' population. A smooth transition will set an important example to other territories. Bermuda should be able to combine the benefits of extended self-government with the prospect of regaining full British citizenship.

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MAN IN TIGHTS

The Lord Chancellor should be allowed some Lycra relief

If sitting on the Woolsack were not back-breaking enough, Lord Irvine of Lairg has another grouse. His buckled shoes pinch, his thighs ladder, his breeches rub and his long wig weighs "an absolute ton". But even more damage is done to his (not inconsiderable) dignity: "For male adults of sound mind," he says, "the days of breeches and tights and buckled shoes should really go."
Lord Irvine's mind is more than sound: it is very fine. So is the Lord Chancellor's ceremonial uniform, with its lavishly gold-braided gown, ruffled collar and cuffs, and wig that extends well below his shoulders. This regalia he will continue to wear for all formal occasions.
The rub comes with his "everyday" wear of wig, black gown, breeches, tights and buckles. The Lord Chancellor proposes, like a newsreader behind a desk in suit jacket, tie and jeans, to dispense with flummery for his bottom half, while retaining it for the top. He wants to be allowed to wear normal black trousers, socks and shoes instead.
This is not so much traditional values in a modern setting as modern gear in a traditional setting. And Lord Irvine has a point. Women are used to wearing tights all day but men, in these matters, are the

weaker sex. The Lord Chancellor should certainly be saved the embarrassment of having to bulk-buy large black opaques at his local Boots. For he cannot afford to risk the scorn he would endure if he sent his driver out for them instead.
Lord Irvine is keen on creature comforts. He has already "modernised" his flat — in estate-agent parlance, if not in choice of wallpaper. His predecessor but one, Lord Hailsham, described the "austere discomfort" of the apartment in Lord Gardiner's day, so this Lord Chancellor has turned the place around. He has also won the right to turn his back on the monarch and walk forwards instead of backwards after handing her the Queen's Speech. Only Lord Hailsham, because of his arthritis, has recently been given such an exemption. Lord Irvine's affliction is psychological rather than physical: he suffers injury not to joints but to pride.
But on his uniform, the current Lord Chancellor has an excellent case. The garb he has to wear today makes him melt into the furniture: he looks more like part of the House than part of the Lords. Perhaps he has discovered a duty to distance himself from predecessors such as Cardinal Wolsey. As that illustrious Lord Chancellor might well have said: "Off with his tights!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Concern over drug testing at work

From Mr Anthony Morton-Hooper

Sir, Dr Patrick Dixon enthuses about the efficacy of workplace drug testing (Feature, "Why we must have drug tests at work", November 5). Sensibly, he acknowledges the importance of education and the primacy of deterrence over punishment.
The experience of drug testing in sport offers some guidance and warnings to businesses, and also schools, where drug testing is being introduced. The world of sport has struggled for decades to get its policies right and that world is as much infected by the persistent errors and injustices committed by over-zealous governing bodies who fail to accept the limitations and fallibilities of their drug testing policies as by the activities of the cheating player or athlete.
It is only when the consequences of those errors and injustices are considered that sufficient attention will be paid to the need for proper safeguards. The only system of testing deserving public confidence is one which balances toughness of purpose with scrupulous fairness. Drug testing procedures must protect the innocent, the whole process must have integrity (errors in sample collection will determine the analytical result), there can be innocent explanations for microscopic traces of banned compounds, and there must be recourse for the victim of the "false positive".
Drug testing in the workplace and in our schools may become the norm. However, if the errors and misjudgements seen in the sports world are repeated by businesses and schools there will be a substantial risk of failing to realise the underlying and legitimate objectives of the policy and a loss of public confidence.
Yours sincerely,
TONY MORTON-HOOPER,
Mishcon de Reya (solicitors),
21 Southampton Row, WC1B 5HS,
November 6.

Support for a royal remarriage

From the General Secretary of the Modern Churchpeople's Union

Sir, I notice that some of our episcopal Fathers in God are beginning to discuss the possibility of a remarriage of Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles in church (report, November 6; letter, November 7).
In this respect they are following the lead of at least a good few of the clergy of the Church of England, hundreds of whom, like me, already conduct collectively thousands of remarriages in parish churches every year.
We do so in order to meet pastoral need and to represent the Christian Gospel as one which has at its heart the concept of forgiveness and new beginnings.
Should Charles and Camilla be looking for a venue and a minister to perform the ceremony there is no need for them to go to Crathie Kirk. I will be pleased to oblige. Further, and no doubt much later, I will also be glad to accept and welcome King Charles III with his consort as a happily married Supreme Governor of the Church of England.
Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
General Secretary,
Modern Churchpeople's Union,
25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP,
November 6.

From Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

Sir, Of course Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles should be allowed to marry if they so wish, and with every blessing by religious establishments.
It would be more honest to formalise their relationship, rather than maintain the current pretence, while a happily married monarch will function more effectively than an uneasily single one.
Moreover, a royal wedding would reinforce the institution of marriage, as well as provide a better role model for the tens of thousands of other divorcees in Britain.
In addition, it is axiomatic to both Christianity and Judaism that misdemeanours can be repented and people released from the albatrosses around their necks. In this case, both individuals have surely paid the price of enough personal unhappiness and public condemnation.
It is more religious to be charitable and forgiving than to bear grudges and force others to remain in the past. When the time comes, I for one shall have no hesitation in saying "Long live Queen Camilla".
Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN ROMAIN,
Maidenhead Synagogue,
9 Bow Hill Avenue,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4ET,
November 9.

Dome cash 'could transform the arts'

From Mrs Doris Lessing

Sir, What Peter Mandelson doesn't understand (Matthew Parris's sketch, November 10) is that opposition to the Dome is because people know that the money spent on it could transform, for instance, the arts — which is what this country is really good at. This Government, like the one before it, is unable to see the arts as anything more than a whingeing Oliver Twist. The theatre is dying. When these short-sighted people are standing over the corpse of what is admired by the whole world, we will hear them say — as we have so many blundering governments in various contexts: "Oh dear, we made a mistake."
In New York a theatre died recently from lack of funding. Within a year the cafés, restaurants, dress shops, food shops, beauty parlours and car firms had gone, and the whole area has returned to its pre-theatre state of dereliction. "Oh dear, we made a mistake."
Yours faithfully,
DORIS LESSING,
24 Gondar Gardens, NW6 1HG,
November 10.

St James's development

From Councillor Alan Bradley

Sir, Mr Dominic Elliot and his co-signatories write (letter, November 5) of the "unique concentration" of historic buildings in St James's. Westminster Council recognises that the special character of St James's Street needs to be protected. That is why we recently refused permission for yet another restaurant, as their recent proliferation in the street now threatens that character.
However, the proposed 120-bedroom first-class hotel in the old Bath Club at No 74 will bring back into entirely suitable use this superb Grade II* listed building, its magnificent interiors will be faithfully restored to their original appearance. A new staircase will sympathetically ally the best of modern design to the revitalisation of the old. Local residents' amenity will be protected by conditions and legal agreement.
My committee warmly welcomed the scheme, which has the support of English Heritage, and granted permission last night.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN BRADLEY
(Chairman, Environment and Planning Committee),
City of Westminster,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP,
November 6.

Ever more worthy of remembrance

From Mr Leonard Manasseh

Sir, The decision by the Republic of France to award the Légion d'honneur, not only to her own surviving veterans of the Great War, but now to the few remaining British survivors as well (letter, November 7) is thoughtful and generous on this thirtieth anniversary of that terrible war: a gesture of truly Gallic imagination.
Yours faithfully,
LEONARD MANASSEH,
6 Bacon's Lane,
Highgate Village, N6 6BL,
November 8.

College, wrote some verses in their praise.
I recall them as follows:
To be an airman, that is why
He joined the ATC,
But he's a miner now, because
His number ends in three.
He does not lose his sense of fun,
He does not peak or pine,
He merely says, "Were mine the choice,
The choice would not be mine."
Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRAHAM,
21 Warwick Avenue, W9 2PS,
November 9.

From Mr Andrew Rowe,
MP for Faversham and
Mid Kent (Conservative)

Sir, My late uncle told me the following story which illuminates the ceremony at the Cenotaph yesterday.
He was serving on a sector in France where every afternoon German artillery shelled the road between the front and staff HQ. The bombardment started at 3pm precisely and lasted for exactly 30 minutes.
The staff required a report on the situation to be delivered to HQ at 4pm precisely. The result was that several young officers were killed. On one of my uncle's visits he suggested that perhaps the staff could receive the report at a time which would avoid the barrage.
"I shall choose to forget that I ever heard that," said the staff officer. "It is the most lily-livered thing I have ever heard; you are very fortunate not to be put on a charge." And so the procedure continued.
My uncle later won a Military Cross for rescuing a soldier from a burning ammunition store.
Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons,
November 9.

From Mr Stephen Young

Sir, Calling it a "huge success", Patrick Dixon tries his best to paint a friendly face on mass drug testing, now an institution here in America.
He offers little consideration, however, of employees who have done nothing to provoke such a degrading procedure. And what of the fears of employees hesitant to reveal medical conditions to employers? Drug screening can detect legal drugs, as well as illegal drugs. Innocent employees can experience false positives, and drug-using employees may know how to generate false negatives.
Perhaps there are fewer positive drug test results now, as Dixon claims, but it would be ridiculous to assume that the process has had any actual impact on the American drug problem. Drug testing has been a success only as a business, profiting from a form of alchemy by which, at last, urine can be turned into gold with little expense, as long as an employee's dignity and privacy are overlooked as costs.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN YOUNG,
990 Borden Drive,
Roselle, Illinois 60012,
theyoungfamily@worldnet.att.net
November 7.

From the Vice-President of
The Bevin Boys Association

Sir, The Bevin Boys Association is greatly indebted to Lord Mason of Barnsley and Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin (letter, November 6; photograph, early editions, and report, November 9) for making it possible for a contingent of ex-war-time Bevin Boys to parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.
This was indeed a milestone in history.
Special thanks must also go to London Transport for the generous part they played in hosting our members on this memorable occasion.
Yours,
WARWICK H. TAYLOR,
Vice-President,
The Bevin Boys Association,
33 Sussex Street, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 8TG,
November 9.

From Mr John Graham

Sir, With reference to the Bevin Boys, the late T. F. Cattle, a teacher at Eton

School inspections

From the General Secretary of the
National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your leading article of November 4, "Commonsense and nonsense", misrepresents the NUT's position on school inspections. Far from ruling out independent inspections, the union has always seen them as important, but has argued for a balance between external inspection and internal evaluation.
Indeed, the Chief Inspector of Schools, in his address to the NUT conference on November 3, stressed the importance of internal evaluation; and the government minister, Charles Clarke, stated at the conference that there was a total consensus on the need for a balance between the two.
Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD,
November 4.

Devolution warning

From Mr Nigel R. Smith

Sir, Professor Robert Hazell's warning yesterday (Riddell on Politics, November 5) that devolution will transform the British State and release powerful dynamic forces beyond the Government's control should be widely heeded. As chairman of the "Yes" campaign during the Scottish devolution referendum, I would add my view that if the reforms do not have these effects they will have failed Britain.
The Government's centralising language, so at odds with the reforms, is causing confusion among British institutions considering their response to devolution. By encouraging the view that organisations not affected by legislation are not affected at all, the Government is limiting the potential for unlegislated responses to make a valuable contribution to the success of the reforms. Responding to

the letter of the law rather than the spirit of reform will greatly affect the dynamics of which Professor Hazell warns.

For example, take your recent report (early editions, October 10) of the difficulties the BBC is having with devolution and suppose the BBC fails to keep pace with its audience in Scotland. Then imagine how much more difficult renewal of the BBC licence fee becomes with the Scottish parliament expressing audience dissatisfaction.
The licence is not within the legal competence of the Scottish parliament, yet it is clear that the resolution of the Scottish parliament could not be entirely ignored. By such means will the new political forces alter Britain.
Yours sincerely,
NIGEL R. SMITH,
Glenview,
2 Crosshouse Road,
Campsie Glen, Glasgow G65 7AD,
November 6.

Rector of Stiffkey

From the Reverend Geoffrey
Kemble Johnson

Sir, Readers of Matthew Parris's account of the "martyrdom" of the Reverend Harold Davidson, Rector of Stiffkey (Weekend, November 7), may be interested in an account I heard broadcast on radio many years ago.
The widow of the lion-tamer told how the unfrocked rector saw a pretty girl in the audience and began waving to her. Carelessly, he trod on the tail of a lioness which was with him in the cage, causing her to growl, whereupon Freddie, the lion, bit Davidson in the throat, inflicting injuries from which he died. I recall the lady declaring that it was entirely Davidson's own fault, "because he wasn't paying attention".
Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY K. JOHNSON,
53 St Walstan's Road,
Taverham, Norwich NR8 6NG,
November 8.

From the Reverend E. J. Penny

Sir, I have never heard the name of Harold Davidson's old parish pronounced by those who live there as anything but Stiffkey, though the village may have been called Stewkey in the past as Matthew Parris claims. Villagers who remember Harold Davidson speak of him with great affection. He showed generosity to those in need and treated his parishioners with much care and kindness.
May he rest in peace.
Yours sincerely,
JOHN PENNY
(Priest in Charge of the
Stiffkey Benefice),
The Vicarage,
2 Holt Road,
Langham, Norfolk NR25 7BX,
November 7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

From start to finish

From Mr John Keevill

Sir, Rather than learning how to cook, eat and wash up (letters, October 30 and November 3), I believe your correspondents would benefit most from a short, technical television programme called *How to switch off*.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN KEEVILL,
Forest Oak, Milton Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1DD,
john@towerleasing.co.uk
November 3.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE Colonel-in-Chief, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer... The Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Court of St James's...

Memorial service

Mr Percy Grievé, QC The Ambassador of Luxembourg attended and the French Ambassador was represented by M Christophe Penot at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Percy Grievé, QC, held on Monday at the Temple Church...



Chris Gravett, senior curator, and Clair Curtis of the Royal Armouries staff on manoeuvres with armour made for King Henry VIII in 1540

The Tower of London orders its arms for the Queen

By JOHN YOUNG

EIGHT years of work re-organising, refurbishing and redisplaying the Royal Armouries' matchless collection of historic arms and armour will be marked by a visit by the Queen to the Tower of London on Friday...

the Restoration in 1650, the first time that the paying public were admitted to the Tower. The former includes 12 life-size 17th-century wooden horses carved by some of the country's finest craftsmen...

As a result there is at last room for proper space and attention to be given to those items which have a direct historical connection with the Tower itself, some of which will be on public display for the first time this century...

The original Spanish Armoury was opened during the reign of Charles II to present the monarchy as a popular patriotic institution after 11 years of republicanism...

The gallery also contains the weapons - two blunderbusses and a Scottish sporting flintlock - gun taken from the conspirators who plotted to assassinate William III in 1696...

The Line of Kings and the Spanish Armoury are re-creations of the displays mounted after

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Briggs and Miss S.E. Bozall The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs Clive Briggs of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Sarah Elizabeth, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Bruce Boffill of Marlborough Heath, Suffolk...

Marriage

Mr T.E.S. Lynch and Mrs J.R. Wicks A service of blessing was held at Holy Trinity Church, Radwick, West Sussex, on Saturday, November 7, after the marriage of Thomas E.S. Lynch and Joanna Ruth Wicks (nee Collett) in the presence of their children, Megan Lynch, Jennifer and Katherine Wicks. Rev Richard Jackson officiated.

Service dinners

The King's Royal Hussars The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, was present at the regimental dinner of The King's Royal Hussars held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Brigadier E.W. Morrison, Colonel of the Regiment, presided...

Luncheons

Tallow Chandlers' Company The High Commissioner for Australia was present at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall after being admitted to the Freeman of the Tallow Chandlers' Company. During the luncheon Mr Tom Dunne and Mr Piers Hudson received the 1998 Amber/Lloyd Tallow Chandlers' Awards to Selwyn College, Cambridge...

Dinners

Queen Mary and Westfield College Professor Adrian Smith, Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, and Sir Christopher France, chairman of council, presided at a dinner held last night at the college. Among other guests were: Rev John H. Jones, Bishop of Exeter; Rev John H. Jones, Bishop of Exeter; Rev John H. Jones, Bishop of Exeter...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Johann Albert Fabricius, scholar, Leipzig, 1668; Louis de Bougainville, navigator and scientist, Paris, 1732; Fyodor Dostoyevsky, novelist, Moscow, 1821; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of Pointillism, Paris, 1863; Edouard Vuillard, painter, Cluses, France, 1868; George Patton, American general in the Second World War, San Gabriel, California, 1888; Iain Macleod, politician, Skipton, Yorkshire, 1913...

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit France and attend a ceremony to mark Remembrance Day and the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, on 11.00 and will unveil a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Avenue Winston Churchill at 1.55. Later, she will lay a wreath at the Peace Tower, Messin, (Mines), Belgium, at 4.25, and will attend a ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, at 4.55...

Birthdays today

Professor T.E. Allibone, FRS, physicist, 95; Mr Harry Branna, former Director of Royal School of Church Music, 82; Lord Carr of Hadley, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 73; Mr Jonathan Fenby, former Editor, The Observer, 56; Mr Ron Greenwood, former England football manager, 77; Lord Marsh, 77; Lord John de Rothschild, 77; Lord Harold Kent, 75; Sir Alister Kneller, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 71; Mr Rodney Marsh, Australian cricketer, 51; Miss Demi Moore, actress, 36; Miss Cristina Odono, former Editor, Catholic Herald, 38; Dr Indraprasad Sen, KBE, former director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 74; Mr James Rose-Evans, theatre director and writer, 71; Mr Richard Rowe, racehorse trainer, 59; Mr John Sheffield, former chairman, Norwich City, 58; Peter Shepherd, architect, 85; General Sir Walter Walker, 85; Miss Joan Whitfield, actress, 73; Lord Wolfson, 71...

Appointments

Mr David John Chinyo to be a provincial secretary for the West Midlands, based at Birmingham.

Church news

Charge, Salford Sacred Trinity (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Wythenshawe St Martin, and Team Rector, designate, Wythenshawe (same diocese). The Rev Peter Barnett, Priest-in-Charge, Clifton St Anne (Manchester), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Clifton Green St Thomas (same diocese).

Appointments

The Rev Joseph Ayok-Loewenberg, Priest-in-Charge, Symondsbury, former chairman, Norwich City, to be Team Vicar, Marshwood Vale (same diocese). Canon Geoff Babb, Diocesan Priest-rector of CME, and Priest-in-Charge, Salford Sacred Trinity (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Wythenshawe St Martin, and Team Rector, designate, Wythenshawe (same diocese).

Appointments

The Rev Dr Anne Barton, Chaplain, King Alfred's College (Winchester), to be diocesan development and research officer for liturgical matters (same diocese). The Rev Murray Brown, Vicar, Thorne (Sheffield), to be Vicar, Norton Woodseats St Paul (same diocese).

Appointments

Mr David John Chinyo to be a provincial secretary for the West Midlands, based at Birmingham.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

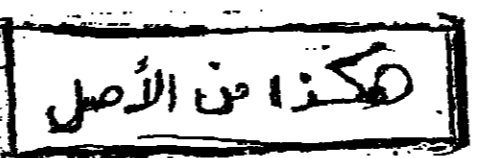
TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

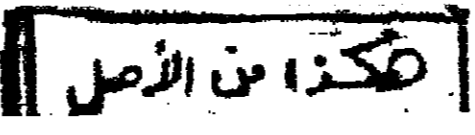
BIRTHS WEISSON - On 18th September 1998, to Amanda and Kevin, a son, Oliver James, a brother for Thomas and Alice. DEATHS BACKHOUSE - John Anderson, F.C.A., Much loved husband of Anne, Heather Backhouse and dearly loved father of Sally-Anne, Jonathan and James. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Blackburn, Lancs, B22 2AJ, Funeral on Friday November 13th at 11.00am. Enquiries 01254 265911. BUCHANAN - Patrick Bury, On 8th November 1998, peacefully in his 84th year, after a long illness, Patrick, died at home, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1JL. Burial at Salisbury Cathedral on 11.30am. Family flowers only by kind permission of the churchwarden. Enquiries 01254 265911. DAVIES - On 7th October, 1998 at St. Luke's Hospital, Liphinst, Essex, Colin Richard Arthur Aston, M.C. (Dick) 8th Duke of Cornwall's Own Legionnaires (Warsons House) Indian Army (Retired). Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Blackburn, Lancs, B22 2AJ, Funeral on Friday November 13th at 11.00am. Enquiries 01254 265911. FITZGERALD - On 8th November 1998, peacefully in his 84th year, after a long illness, Patrick, died at home, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1JL. Burial at Salisbury Cathedral on 11.30am. Family flowers only by kind permission of the churchwarden. Enquiries 01254 265911.

DEATHS BROCK - Rosemary, peacefully at home on November 9th, widow of Admiral Bill Brock and of Major Ian Brock. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Blackburn, Lancs, B22 2AJ, Funeral on Friday November 13th at 11.00am. Enquiries 01254 265911. BUCHANAN - Patrick Bury, On 8th November 1998, peacefully in his 84th year, after a long illness, Patrick, died at home, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1JL. Burial at Salisbury Cathedral on 11.30am. Family flowers only by kind permission of the churchwarden. Enquiries 01254 265911. DAVIES - On 7th October, 1998 at St. Luke's Hospital, Liphinst, Essex, Colin Richard Arthur Aston, M.C. (Dick) 8th Duke of Cornwall's Own Legionnaires (Warsons House) Indian Army (Retired). Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Blackburn, Lancs, B22 2AJ, Funeral on Friday November 13th at 11.00am. Enquiries 01254 265911. FITZGERALD - On 8th November 1998, peacefully in his 84th year, after a long illness, Patrick, died at home, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1JL. Burial at Salisbury Cathedral on 11.30am. Family flowers only by kind permission of the churchwarden. Enquiries 01254 265911.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MARGARET GOWING

LANCE WALTON

Margaret Gowing, CBE, FRS, FBA, founding Professor of the History of Science, Oxford University, died on November 7 aged 77. She was born on April 25, 1921.

more interesting than she could ever have imagined. The task, though, was daunting, for, as she often said, she "didn't know an atom from a molecule". However, she was soon meeting and conversing with such legendary scientists as Niels Bohr, Sir James Chadwick and Rudolf Peierls, and building up a close circle of scientist friends. The UKAEA had opened up to her a virgin field for research, with privileged access to a rich and unexplored store of primary (and still classified) official sources, and she seized this unrivalled opportunity with both hands. Her revelatory book, *Britain and Atomic Energy 1939-1945*, was a triumphant success when it appeared in 1964.

Margaret Gowing enjoyed the rare distinction — shared with Joseph Needham and Karl Popper — of being a Fellow of both the British Academy and the Royal Society. Her remarkable reputation was made in four different fields: as an official economic historian; as an authority on public records; as the doyenne of nuclear historians; and as Oxford's first Professor of the History of Science.

Born Margaret Elliott, the youngest of three clever children, she grew up poor in West Kensington. She was educated at the Portobello Road Elementary School and Christ's Hospital. She won a scholarship, which supported her sick and unemployed father as well as taking her to LSE where she gained a first-class BSc in economics. During the war she worked in the Board of Trade, 1941-45. Her first great opportunity came shortly after her marriage to Donald Gowing in 1944, when she went to work for Sir Keith Hancock at the Cabinet Office on the new war history project. There she wrote a brilliant synopsis volume, *British War Economy* (1949), with Hancock, who rated her contribution very highly. It was followed in 1952 by *Civil Industry and Trade* (1952), with E. L. Hargreaves.

During the next two years she was a member of Sir James Grigg's committee on departmental records. (Towards the end of its work, there was a race between the report and the expected Gowing baby.) The Grigg report of 1954 resulted in the 1958 Public Records Act, which created a modern public records system for the United Kingdom. That 1958 Act was to have an unforeseeable but decisive influence on the rest of Gowing's life. One body not subject to the Act, because it was not a government department, was the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, set up in 1954. Conscious of the historic value of its records, however, it elected to be scheduled under the Act, and then sought an archivist/historian. Gowing was appointed in August 1959. The work proved to be

Published in 1974, it was widely reviewed and greatly acclaimed at home and abroad; it at once became indispensable in its field and remains a classic, combining academic rigour with strong narrative and a lively, direct and highly readable style. In 1973 (when *Independence and Deterrence* was completed but not yet published) Oxford University established a new chair in the history of science. Persuaded by a scientist friend to apply, Gowing did so with some diffidence, not expecting to be short-listed. But the university made an inspired choice and appointed her as Oxford's first Professor of the History of Science. It was another splendid opportunity, but a formidable one — for a woman, an "outsider", and a non-scientist. She would have to explore a new environment and master wide new areas of study, at the same time continuing to work as the UKAEA historian, commuting regularly to London. She met this manifold challenge with characteristic cour-



Gowing: in the nuclear industry she found a rich, untapped subject for historical research

age, ability and an apparently unlimited capacity for work. After she had overcome the initial difficulties, she greatly enjoyed her time in Oxford, and in the 14 years until her retirement she built up a strong tradition of history of science, embracing its political, social and technological aspects. Her interest in records continued. For eight years, 1974-82, she served on the Advisory Council on Public Records and for three, 1976-79, on the BBC Archives Advisory Committee. With her friend

Nicholas Kurti in Oxford, concerned by the posthumous loss and destruction of many scientists' personal papers, she worked hard to establish the Contemporary Scientific Archives Centre and for 13 years, 1973-86, was its honorary director. (The centre is now at the University of Bath.) By the late 1970s, with other contemporary historians, she felt that the 1958 Grigg system needed review. The Government set up an inquiry on public records under Sir Duncan Wilson in 1978, and Gowing was one of its three

members. She worked tirelessly on it for two years, travelling widely despite a painful back injury which obliged her to tour the United States in a heavy plaster. The Wilson committee reported in 1980, and showed itself a worthy successor to the Grigg committee of which she had been a youthful member almost thirty years before. She was appointed CBE in 1981. Demands on her apparently boundless energy continued to grow — papers, articles and reviews; many important public lectures; working visits

overseas — to the United States, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, Australia and Israel. Perhaps understandably, there was no sequel to *Independence and Deterrence*. She worked quickly, always walked at top speed, and relaxed and rested little. She was generous with her time, could seldom if ever refuse anything that she was asked to undertake, and work was unremitting. Her former summer holidays in Provence with friends from LSE days ceased, and nothing took their place.

Of her many activities, the one that she most enjoyed was her association with the National Portrait Gallery for several years as a trustee. It was probably her best and truest recreation. She was also on the governing body of the Imperial War Museum, where she made a stand against museum charges, especially because of their effect on poor families, and resigned in protest when charges were introduced. As a founder member of the Campaign for the Advancement of State Education in the early 1960s, she took part in official delegations (meeting Sir Edward Boyle, a Conservative Minister of Education whom she greatly admired) and she often spoke at public meetings, often sharing a platform with Margaret Thatcher, then a rising young MP.

An active Labour Party supporter and passionate socialist all her adult life, Gowing was totally opposed to Conservative politics in general and to Margaret Thatcher's political ideas in particular. But, to her amusement rather than irritation, people noticed a marked resemblance between the two women — the high forehead, hooded blue eyes, strong nose, small pretty mouth, and pointed chin. There were surprising similarities of temperament, too. After a working lifetime of high endeavour and distinguished achievement, Margaret Gowing retired in 1986, leaving a lasting legacy to scholarship in her published work, her contribution to public records policy and scientific archives, and her teaching. Sadly, her retirement years became overshadowed by declining health, which left her deeply frustrated. Her husband died in 1969 but she is survived by her two sons.

Lance Walton, orthopaedic surgeon, died on October 15 aged 96. He was born on March 15, 1902.

as ill-luck would have it, Mennell and his assistant retired ill within a month, leaving Walton carrying the whole department.

When Mennell returned to duty after a year, Walton became his new chief assistant. He also attended classes at the Physiotherapy School at St Thomas', and before long he had mastered the unusual combination of orthopaedics, physical medicine and manipulation, and his remarkable methods of treatment became noted for their success, particularly with problems of the neck, back and spine.

Frequently he found that he was able to relieve seemingly unassociated problems simultaneously. Perhaps this is what caused Sister Kenny to single him out to bring to

England her radical polio treatments which eased so much of the suffering from that appalling disease. In addition to his many hospital appointments, Lance Walton was in private practice for many years, and after retiring he continued to treat patients at his home in Alderney. Many would fly over from the mainland, convinced that he was the only person able to treat them satisfactorily.



Much of his physical strength lasted almost to the end of his days, perhaps due to his love of building walls of all kinds. He had built his own treatment rooms adjoining his family home at Walton-on-Thames. The walls for these rooms resisted destruction when, after his departure, it was demolished. They had to be dynamited. The dry-stone walls he built in Alderney in his later years will remain a memorial to his lifelong hobby and a reminder of his family's nickname, the Wallnut. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dawn, and by their four children.

RUMER GODDEN

Rumer Godden, OBE, writer, died on November 8 aged 90. She was born on December 10, 1907.

Rumer Godden always felt herself "a divided person — in India homesick for Europe, in Europe homesick for India". Although born in Sussex, she went with her parents to India when she was six months old. Her father, who had a great interest in philology, worked for the Inland Navigation Company, and the family lived in Bengal, on the banks of the Megna (which was to inspire her best novel, *The River*). She was often to return to India, spending a good proportion of her life there.

She wrote some 60 books, including plays, novels, verse and short stories, most of them marked by a heartwarming optimism. Both her serious and her lighter, romantic novels are concerned with the transitory nature of human experience. Her interest in this is counterbalanced by a feeling for roots and traditions, for the continuity of families and old houses — most satisfyingly in *A Fugue in Time* (1945) and *China Court* (1961), which spans five generations. Perhaps her most successful books are those in which she evokes the atmosphere of India through all the senses: her writing is vivid with detail of smells, textures, light, flowers, noises and tactile experiences. She celebrates the fullness of Indian life, but also probes the individual's relationship with society, and the conflicts between cultures. Although she said that she wrote first and researched afterwards, she had a healthy regard for fact. "In fiction you can afford to be fictitious," she once said.

Margaret Rumer Godden was the second of four sisters, and remembered from her pre-school days in Assam that if they played with their dolls out of doors, the monkeys would dart down from the trees and snatch them to toy with among themselves. In 1912 Rumer and her elder sister were left in London with their grandmother and four maiden aunts to be properly brought up, but with the coming of the Zeppelins they were shipped back to India. There, their mother read them poetry and took them each summer to a different part of the country, deepening the girls' love of Indian life. Already Godden was writing poems and stories. Precociously, she wrote her first autobiography when she was eight.

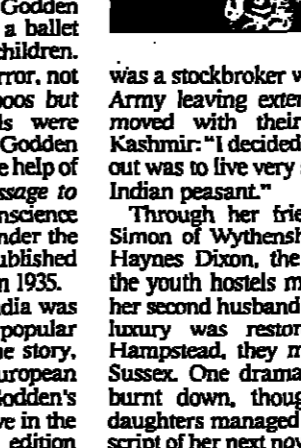
Once the war was over, Godden returned to England. After false starts at several schools, she was educated at Moira House, in Eastbourne, where she boasted that she had had a book of poems published. "Who paid," asked the vicar-principal, guessing correctly, "the publisher or your mother?" That was the end of the boasting, though not of the itch to write, and Godden was given special tuition in the craft, which she remembered with gratitude: "Grammar, grammar, grammar, all the time. It was wonderful!"

The individual tuition at Moira House included précis, criticism, and paraphrasing. Times leaders in the form of sonnets, and Godden was always grateful for the care that had been taken in teaching her the proper use of the English language. But it was not as a writer that she started out. After training as a ballet dancer and teacher in London, Godden went to Calcutta in 1930 to start a ballet school for English and Indian children. This was a move greeted with horror, not only because it broke racial taboos but because many dancing schools were covered for brothels. Nevertheless, Godden ran the school for 20 years with the help of a sister, reading Forster's *A Passage to India* had awakened her social conscience about the treatment of Indians under the Raj. Her first commercially published book, *Chinese Puzzle*, appeared in 1935.

Godden's intense feeling for India was reflected in her third and most popular novel, *Black Narcissus* (1938). The story, about the deterioration of the European nuns in India, was inspired by Godden's experience of finding a nun's grave in the Himalayas. The first American edition sold out in four days, and the book made her rich. Temporarily. For her first husband, Laurence Foster, with whom she made a "shotgun" marriage in 1934,

was a stockbroker who ran away into the Army leaving extensive bad debts. She moved with her two daughters to Kashmir: "I decided the only way to face it out was to live very simply. I lived like an Indian peasant."

Through her friends Lord and Lady Simon of Wythenshawe, she met James Haynes Dixon, the writer who founded the youth hostels movement. He became her second husband in 1949, and a certain luxury was restored. After living in Hampshire, they moved to Rye in East Sussex. One dramatic night their house burnt down, though one of Godden's daughters managed to salvage the manuscript of her next novel. They moved, then, into Lamb House, previously the home of Henry James and then of the "uncontrollably prolific" writer E. F. Benson. In 1951 Godden collaborated with Jean



Renoir on the screenplay for his film version of her 1946 novel *The River*. *Black Narcissus*, *An Episode of Sparrows* (1955), *The Greengate Summer* (1958) and *A Fugue in Time* were also made into films. Among her more unusual projects were the screenplay for a ballet film of *The Tales of Beatrix Potter* and a book about her beloved pekinese.

A number of her books deal with the subject of women in religious communities, and she became well-known at Stanbrook Abbey, Godden herself converted to Roman Catholicism, and in books such as *Five for Sorrow*, *Ten for Joy* (1979) and *In This House of Brede* (1969) she acutely examined the balance between the mystical aspects of religion and the submission of the individual to the spiritual discipline.

Her books for children, especially her several doll stories, convincingly convey the secret thoughts and aspirations of childhood, and in 1972 she won the Whitbread Award for *The Didado*. As well as fiction she produced two verse narratives for children, *In Noah's Ark* (1949) and *St Jerome and the Lion*. She published two volumes of autobiography, in 1987 and 1990. She was appointed OBE in 1993.

Her second husband died in 1973, and Godden moved to Dumfriesshire to live at the home of one of her daughters. She still made occasional excursions to London, in 1987 appearing (and stealing the show) on a BBC2 books programme. In 1994 she undertook her last great adventure, returning to India at the age of 86 to take part in a full-scale BBC TV documentary on her writing life. Although she could be difficult, she remained indomitable. She is survived by her two daughters.

DEATHS
VANTAN - Katie/Bobbie (nee...)
House Nursing Home
Funeral on Thursday
15th November 1998 aged
81 years. Widow of Ronnie.
mother of Keith, Alan,
and John. much loved
mother-in-law,
grandmother and great-
grandmother. All
enquiries to Wilson &
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Directors, Peterborough
Tel: 01753 555415

THANKSGIVING SERVICES
CHARLTON - A
Thanksgiving Service for
the life of John Charlton
will be held in the chapel
of Magdalene College,
Cambridge, on the 23rd
November at 12 noon. All
would be welcome, but as
spaces are limited, it would
be helpful to the family if
you could signal an
intention to be present by
informing Susan Charlton
(0171 710 1711) or Jean
Gooder (01223 354060).

HOARE - The Service of
Thanksgiving for the life
of Bridget Home will be
held in St. Luke's Church,
Sydney Street, Chelsea on
Wednesday November
18th at 3pm.

ROBERTS - A Service of
Thanksgiving for the life
of Doreen Lady Robert
(Judith Randall [Hampson])
widow of Sir Peter
Robertson, St. will be held
on Wednesday 2nd
December at 12 noon at St
Michael's Church Square,
London SW1.

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WAR
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ARMY DIVISION - In memory
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PRIVATE
SEARLE - Barry (nee Miller)
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respected and loved by his
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LIFE AND DEATH ON THIS DAY

November 11, 1916

With the awful casualty lists of the Somme offensive still fresh in the mind, this regular Saturday "sermon", by an Oxford correspondent, takes on a special poignancy.

which our old estimations and values are changed. Young men have set life against other things, and found that other things were more worth while; they have weighed death in the balance, and found death more tolerable than the things they could not tolerate. Into that vision they have mounted up with wings undismayed; and those that knew them, loved them, and talked with them, have learned from them the lesson they had learned for themselves.

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NEWS

Blair looks far and wide for mayor

Tony Blair is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London.

Army leak could lead to court martial

Britain's 170,000 soldiers have been warned that they will face a court martial if they leak secret information about planned cuts in the Territorial Army.

Whitehall 'bug' fears

Nine Whitehall departments and agencies will be named today as the worst prepared inside the Government to cope with the millennium computer bug.

Maze Prison to close

The government tried to draw the sting from a shocking report on Northern Ireland's Maze prison last night by announcing its intention to close the top-security jail by late 2000.

Boycott verdict

The reputation of Geoffrey Boycott was in ruins yesterday as a French court condemned him, for the second time, as a woman beater.

Tory bosses quarrel

William Hague moved to bring Michael Portillo into line over the single currency amid claims that the former defence secretary was after his job.

Russians flee homes

As Russian and European Union officials worked out a multi-million-pound aid package to help Russia through the winter, reports emerged that inhabitants of far-northern villages were abandoning their homes.

Wardens assaulted

Young children at Britain's first institution for child offenders have assaulted staff on almost 100 occasions since it opened seven months ago.

War crimes signal

Western diplomatic sources have confirmed that a war crimes suspect arrested in Bosnia in September was actually seized by SAS troops in Serbia, sending a warning to president Milosevic that his country is no longer a haven for those wanted for trial.

Mark of a master

A painting long thought to have been the work of the 17th-century Spanish artist Murillo has been reattributed to his teacher Velázquez, after X-rays revealed his distinctive palette knife markings.

India talks falter

Talks between India and Pakistan on a disputed creek, which is short, narrow, shallow, unnavigable and of no commercial value, have broken down acrimoniously — the final proof that the old enemies can agree on nothing.

War on racism

Colin Powell, the highest-ranking black officer in America who has been flown into Britain as part of the armed forces' self-declared "war on racism", said officers should be punished for any racism that occurs among their troops.

Palace gig for Lancashire lads

A schoolboy pop band, who received £5,000 from the National Lottery to play more concerts, will perform in Buckingham Palace after writing an irreverent letter — beginning "Dear Your Majesty" — to the Queen.



Hyde Park's lawns were lost in leaves yesterday as winter approaches the capital

BUSINESS

Auditors sacked: Abbey National has replaced the merged PricewaterhouseCoopers as its auditor, claiming it represents too many companies.

SPORT

Cricket: Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash averted a potential innings defeat by South Australia with an unbroken partnership of 371 for England's fifth wicket.

ARTS

Bird brained: Jude Kelly's West Yorkshire Playhouse unveils an engrossing production of Chekhov's The Seagull, with a fine performance by Ian McKellen.

FEATURES

Good parenting: Loving other people's children is not easy — and it could all be because of a simple gene. Our series on how to be a good parent continues with a look at step-parents.

Confidence slumps: Business confidence has slumped again, falling to levels consistent with a manufacturing recession, according to the CBI's latest survey.

Football: Graham Bean, a CID officer from Barnsley, was appointed football's first "sleaze buster" with the task of tackling the game's ugly side.

Flying Swede: The Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård came to the attention of British movie-goers as Emily Watson's husband in Breaking the Waves. Now he's everywhere.

Rhesus positive: Research indicates that monkeys may live longer if their diet is restricted.

GEIC row: The head of defence export services at the Ministry of Defence is joining GEC, raising fresh concerns about the role of civil servants who transfer to the private sector.

Rugby union: Dan Luger will win his first cap on the left wing and Martin Corry leapfrogs some rivals at No 8 for England against the Netherlands.

Smart exchange: Two years after an IRA bomb devastated Manchester's city centre, the magnificently restored Royal Exchange Theatre is reborn.

Buffalo gal: Joanna Coles increases the steak intake in a bid to harness protein power in the Big Apple.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 1.6 to 5432.3. The pound rose 29 cents to \$1.6623 and fell 0.6 pence to DM2.7993. The sterling index rose to 100.8 from 100.7.

Simon Barnes: That misfortune can be an inspiration is a tale as old as sport, but we must consider the notion that actual illness can be a real advantage.

Life of Riley: Four decades of the career of Bridget Riley, one of the most outstanding artists of postwar Britain, are showcased in a new exhibition.

Legacy of war: Magnus Lindaker describes how, thanks to a tin helmet, his novelist father managed to survive the Great War.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Johnny Depp as Hunter S. Thompson: Geoff Brown gives his verdict on Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

BOOKS: Raymond Seitz enjoys the Harold Evans view of America.

People & Property: A logbook for your house; kitchens with good taste; cashing in on apartment deals; rich young buyers boost the market; the secret of a London village's style.

THE PAPERS: Economic conditions in Russia are bound to produce unsettled politics. But no economic troubles could excuse a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

OBITUARIES: Professor Margaret Gowing, historian; Lance Walton, surgeon; Rumer Godden, author.

LETTERS: Risks of instigating drug tests at work; support for Prince Charles's remarriage; Doris Lessing on the cost of the Dome; Bevin Boys remembered; devolution warning; Rector of Stiffkey.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,946

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS: 1 Otherwise tick and store everything for sale (5-2-5). 9 North American wood left out becomes dark brown (5). 10 Refuse to accept delivery by jet (9). 11 By staying on the outside, not so much led astray, fortunately (9). 12 Fly without new navigation aid (5). 13 Synthetic polymer trimmed for use (6). 15 Picture of biscuits just out of the oven? (8). 18 Haggled like the composer's wife? (8). 19 Hold up basket of food (6). 22 Guarantee, when queen is removed, to succeed (5). 24 Unlike Herrick's rose, lacking old-fashioned character (9). 26 Standard formal procedure half repeated in study (9).

A solution to the crossword puzzle, showing the words filled into the grid.

AA INFORMATION

AA information including latest road and weather conditions, world city weather, and motoring details.

FORECAST

Weather forecast for various regions including London, SE, Central S, E, Central N, NE, and SW.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including sun, rain, and temperature.

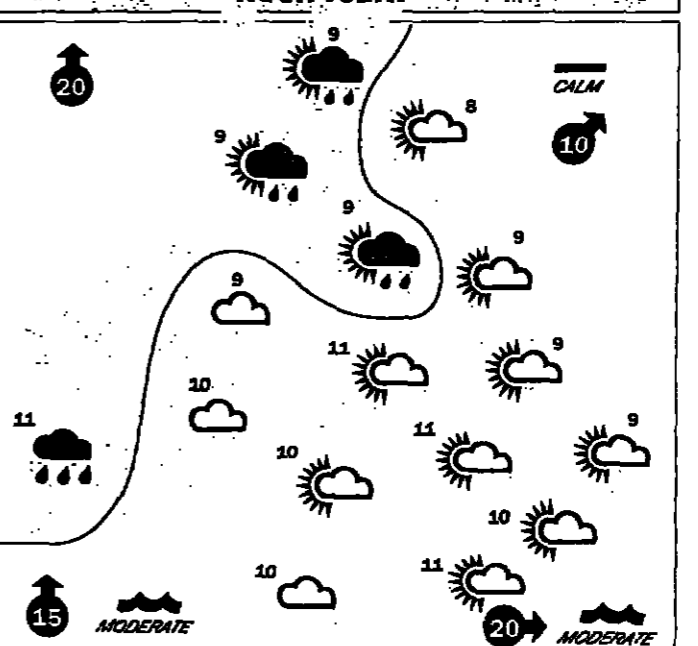
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures across various locations.

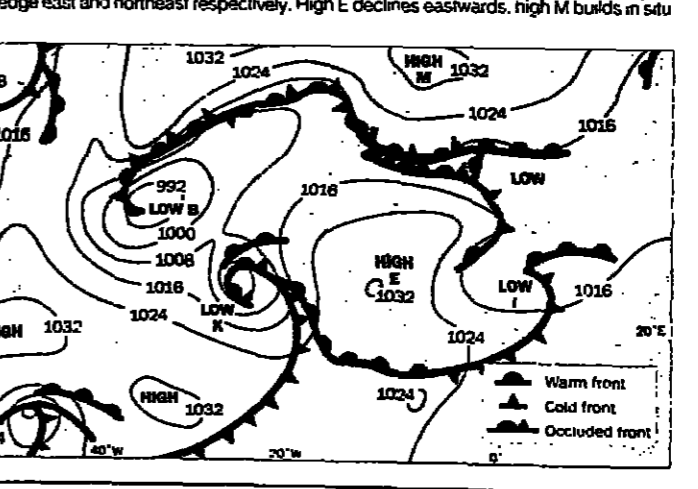
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions in various international locations.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations.

A large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'PWC d from Abbey' and 'Civil servant on fast track private sector'.

THE TIMES

DAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

ECONOMICS

Janet Bush asks what price IMF redemption PAGE 29

ARTS

Ian McKellen wows them in Leeds and Chekhov PAGES 36-38

SPORT

Thorpe gives England impetus in Australia PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

PwC dropped from £7m Abbey audit

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

ABBEY NATIONAL, the former building society, has dropped PricewaterhouseCoopers as its auditor because it believes that the newly merged accountancy firm now carries out the audit for too many competing financial service companies.

An Abbey spokeswoman pointed out that PwC audited Lloyds TSB, Royal Bank of Scotland and CGU — all of whom are competitors. "There is no question about the professional independence of PwC. We just thought that we might be better served by a smaller company," she said.

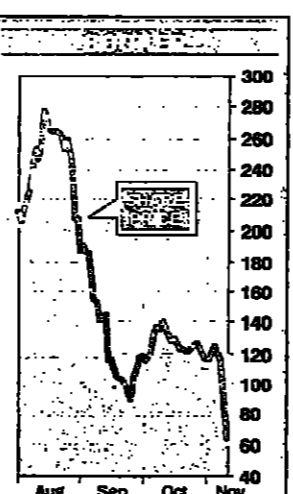
pressed some concerns about the accountancy merger. We believe we have managed to answer the concerns of these clients. Since the merger six months ago, only Diageo from the FTSE 100, formed from the merger between Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, has dropped PwC.



Stuart Rose said the situation at Booker was far worse than he had thought when he joined the company last month, prompting him to take personal charge of the cash-and-carry business with a promise to trim senior management

Booker director dismissed

BY FRASER NELSON



STUART ROSE, the newly appointed chief executive of Booker, has dismissed a director after discovering that the company is in danger of breaching its banking covenants.

Mr Busby was entitled to a £360,000 payoff. Mr Rose said this is under negotiation. Shares of Booker immediately lost almost half their value as analysts changed full-year forecasts from £70 million to £20 million.

banks and they are willing to support the management. The trading problems mostly relate to "Project Heartland" — an idea drawn up by Mr Busby to replace Booker's network of small food depositaries with five central warehouses.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and BREXIT SECTOR.

Civil servant on fast track to private sector

BY JASON NISSÉ

GEC stirred up a controversy about civil servants joining the private sector yesterday after announcing that Sir Charles Masfield, the head of Defence Export Services (DES) at the Ministry of Defence, would be joining GEC as vice-chairman.

Chief of the Defence Staff, who had to wait six months after his departure in April last year before taking up posts of non-executive director of Racal Electronics and adviser to Vickers. Both GEC, whose chief executive is the Labour peer, Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, and the MoD argued that to force Sir Charles to serve a period of purdah would have sent out a bad signal to other business figures who might be invited to work in government.

Ernst & Young and KPMG were at one time planning to merge, but Ernst & Young called off the marriage. PwC will carry out the audit of the Abbey National for this year. Shareholders will be asked to vote on the switch to Deloitte at the annual meeting in 1999.

Latest economic data fuels business gloom

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence in the economy has slumped again, falling to a level consistent with a manufacturing recession, with most companies fearing that conditions will worsen.

director of economic analysis at the CBI, said: "The combined effect of squeezed profit margins, rapidly falling demand and output makes it hardly surprising that the falls in business confidence are now consistent with a manufacturing recession throughout the UK."

recession." The joint study of business performance and expectations found that orders in the north fell by record levels and that confidence is now at a level last seen in 1990.

Rank rebuffs former leisure chief

BY DOMINIC WALSH



SIR Denys Henderson, the Rank Group chairman, has decided to refuse a request for a meeting with John Garrett, a former Rank director, to discuss a possible £900 million bid for its leisure division.

bidders throwing their hats into the ring for various parts of the business. Leading the pack has been Mr Garrett, himself ousted last year as head of the leisure division after a high-profile bust-up with Mr Teare over his division's performance.

three years, now is not the time to be selling, as the full potential of the businesses has yet to be realised. It is also unlikely that Sir Denys will make any significant move until he has appointed a new chief executive. Ken Hanna, the former Dalgety chief executive, and Douglas Yates, the veteran Rank director who has temporarily taken the helm, have both indicated a desire to be considered, but it is likely to be several weeks, even months, before an appointment is made.

Advertisement for mortgage solutions with text: 'Problems getting a mortgage, but want a High Street rate? No problem! Arrears? Defaults? CCJs? 0990-20-22-22'

Woolwich sells estate agencies

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

WOOLWICH, the former building society, has sold off its 160-branch estate agency for £23 million to Spicer McColl, the independent estate agency chain.

The deal is backed by Winterthur Life, the UK life company, owned by the Credit Suisse Group. The insurer will sell financial services through the estate agency network, which will continue to trade until the end of the year as Woolwich Property Services.

The purchase means that Winterthur has ties with 1,000 estate agents across the UK. Woolwich bought the estate agency chain from Prudential Property Services for £21 million in 1991. At the market's peak in 1989, estate agents were changing hands for about £250,000 a branch. Now branches are priced at about £150,000 each.

John Finan, chairman and chief executive of Winterthur Life, said: "We are confident this purchase will prove to be of benefit to consumers as the Woolwich chain will now be joining the operations of our leading partners."

Woolwich claimed yesterday that the estate agents were now showing a profit. The estate agents provided about 10 per cent of its £3.5 billion annual new lending. A spokesman for Woolwich said that the deal would not change that proportion of its new lending.

Intel gives damaging evidence in Microsoft's antitrust trial

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

INTEL, the world's biggest computer chip manufacturer, yesterday made the most damaging allegations yet against Microsoft in the antitrust trial.

Microsoft "repeatedly and on many occasions" threatened Intel with drastic sanctions if it did not withdraw from the software business, according to Steven McGeedy, an Intel vice-president.

Intel has itself been accused of monopolistic behaviour and has little to gain from a weakening of Microsoft, with which it has a close business partnership. Some critics have nicknamed the two companies "Wintel" over their dual hold on the computer market.

Mr McGeedy said Microsoft had tried to choke off any competition in market segments where it operated. Its executives allegedly told Mr McGeedy that most software

areas were "under their control". Mr McGeedy claimed that Microsoft executives believed that they had control of "all the software above the hardware".

Intel's main dispute with Microsoft came three years ago over Java, a new programming language that was threatening to undermine the dominant position of Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Microsoft apparently ordered Intel to stop work on develop-

ing the graphics section of Java. Mr McGeedy told the trial: "They wanted us to stop because this constituted competition."

He testified that Microsoft was threatening to cut its support for future microprocessors made by Intel, maker of the Pentium brand of chips.

Mr McGeedy said: "Bill [Gates] made it clear Microsoft wouldn't support our next processor if we didn't get alignment on the software issue."

Mr Gates, Microsoft's chairman, denied the allegations. Justice Department lawyers contrasted Mr McGeedy's testimony with excerpts from the video-taped questioning of Mr Gates.

The court was shown a videotape of testimony in which Mr Gates was asked: "Did Microsoft make any effort to convince Intel not to help Java?" Mr Gates replied: "Not that I know of." The trial continues.

Minister plays midwife to euro at Rotherham bus station

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ROTHERHAM bus station yesterday became the unlikely setting for the euro to make its first appearance on the streets of Britain.

Seven weeks before it even becomes an official currency within Europe and three years before it formally replaces the currencies of nations that have signed up for it, businesses in the bus station shopping arcade were pricing their wares in both sterling and the new EU currency to try to raise public awareness.

Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office Minister, will go down in history as the first British shopper to buy something with a euro when she bought a royal blue nylon wallet from Rotherham's Labour MP, Denis MacShane. The moment, acted out in front of television cameras and the press, will be recorded for posterity by a brass plaque to be fixed to the wall in the arcade.

Sadly for the bemused shoppers looking on, the free euros, each with an equivalent sterling value of 70p, that were being handed out by the Rotherham Euro Ready Project were not the notes that will circulate. However, the slips of paper, similar to soap coupons apart from a picture of the

town's parish church, could be used in part-payment in several Rotherham shops for purchases over £10. McDonald's staff had been instructed to accept them for soft drinks.

"Yes, it is a bit of a stunt," confessed Phil Davies, the project's media director. "But it is about making people realise that the euro is here. It's not a matter of if we sign up to it, it's simply a matter of when, and people need to be ready. It won't go away."

Julie Kenny, president of Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, many of whose members are funding the project, said: "This week is a fun way to tell people what is happening and to get them used to it. The euro is coming in on January 1 on the Continent whether we like it or not and we have to be ready."

Christopher Duff, the chamber chief executive, said: "Rotherham companies do around £1.2 billion worth of business a year and a significant proportion of that goes abroad, most of it to Europe... From January 1, British Steel, our biggest employer will be sending out its invoices in euros and others are sure to follow."



Flags and badges for the locals as Rotherham businesses launched an experiment with the euro yesterday

Prescott opposes post plan

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT, Deputy Prime Minister, has backed postal workers' fight against Post Office privatisation.

His support, added to that of other senior Labour figures, is likely to weaken the ability of Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to stage a partial sale of the organisation.

At a meeting last week, Mr Prescott told Derek Hodgson, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union, that he would oppose partial privatisation plans.

The Government is considering selling up to 49 per cent of the Post Office. Mr Prescott's opposition comes after comments by Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to union delegates at the Labour conference that the Treasury did not want a sale but rather the steady income stream that the Post Office provides.

Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, is vehemently against a partial sale. Many Labour backbenchers are worried about public reaction to the sale of a stake.

Mr Mandelson may now have to scrap the idea of a sale and instead give the Post Office more commercial freedom and make it an independent publicly owned corporation. This would enable it to compete for more business overseas and raise its own funds.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US investment hits Sotheby's figures

SOTHEBY'S HOLDINGS, the auctions, financial services and real estate group, almost doubled its third-quarter losses to \$20.8 million (£12.5 million), largely because of a \$15.2 million charge against the cost of expanding its New York auction business. Excluding one-off items, losses in the three months to September 30 grew from \$9.2 million to \$11.2 million, on flat revenue of \$51.3 million.

The third quarter, traditionally loss-making because of the absence of major sales, meant that total profits for the first nine months fell from \$11.2 million to \$6.5 million. Excluding the cost of the New York development, profits fell from \$16.9 million to \$16.1 million because of increased investment in the business. Total revenues for the year so far, including the financial services and real estate businesses, were up 13 per cent, at \$266.4 million. The strength of US auction markets was reflected in a 13 per cent jump in auction sales, to \$1.13 billion.

Profit takers hit Shield

THE heart disease test developed by Shield Diagnostics is more effective than other measures based on cholesterol and fibrinogen levels, according to data presented to an influential American healthcare conference. Shield's test for a blood-clotting agent known as Activated Factor XII (AFT) has been the cause of an extraordinary rise in its share price over the past two years. From a recent low of 290p, Shield's price had jumped to 622p on expectations of the presentation to the American Heart Association in Dallas. Yesterday, the price fell back to 577p on profit-taking.

Origin in alliance

ORIGIN, a subsidiary of Philips, has entered an alliance with Wonderware, Siebe's US subsidiary, to provide shop-floor software and support to companies. Wim Verkuiljen, director of industrial automation at Origin, said the companies have a natural compatibility because Wonderware makes the software that industrial companies use on shopfloors, while Origin provides support for shopfloor software and enterprise resource planning software. Wonderware said that it plans to immediately roll out new plant floor services in Europe and expand into the US, Mexico and Asia in 1999.

Cargill to buy rival

CARGILL, the world's biggest grain-trading company, said yesterday it would buy the grain business of its long-time rival Continental Grain in an effort to strengthen its dominant position in the industry. The deal is likely to spark close scrutiny from antitrust regulators in the United States and Europe. Minneapolis-based Cargill and New York-based Continental Grain for years have ranked as the top two grain exporters from the United States, the world's biggest exporting nation. The terms of the transaction, which the companies expect to complete early next year, were not announced.

Accountants' deal off

A PROPOSED merger of the accountants Kidsons Imprey and Moores Rowland has been aborted, it emerged yesterday. Partners cited differences "relating to the constitution and structure of the merged firm". Kidsons Imprey is one of Britain's top ten firms of chartered accountants, with more than 150 partners at 28 offices across the UK. Moores Rowland has 90 partners working in 17 offices. It is the foremost member of Moores Rowland International (MRI), an international association of accounting firms. UK member firms of MRI have a joint turnover in excess of £80 million.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 2.76 | 1.58 |
| Austria Sch | 20.70 | 13.04 |
| Belgium Fr | 61.00 | 56.04 |
| Canada \$ | 2.685 | 2.497 |
| Cyprus P | 0.8715 | 0.8901 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.23 | 10.34 |
| Egypt | 5.87 | 5.26 |
| Finland Mk | 9.06 | 8.37 |
| France Fr | 9.96 | 9.08 |
| Germany DM | 2.956 | 2.723 |
| Greece Dr | 498 | 459 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 13.70 | 12.90 |
| Indonesia | 17097 | 12067 |
| Israel Sh | 1.1803 | 1.0913 |
| Italy Lit | 7.44 | 6.78 |
| Japan Yen | 218.70 | 201.17 |
| Netherlands Gld | 0.655 | 0.626 |
| New Zealand \$ | 3.29 | 3.06 |
| Norway Kr | 10.03 | 12.09 |
| Portugal Esc | 259.83 | 277.90 |
| S. Africa R | 10.04 | 9.08 |
| Spain Ptas | 249.66 | 230.87 |
| Sweden Kr | 14.03 | 12.93 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.465 | 2.247 |
| Turkey Lira | 501544 | 488301 |
| USA \$ | 1.788 | 1.638 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Euro lessons, page 29

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... because of a \$15.2 million
... New York office
... \$1.2 million to \$11.2 million

Bankers hit Shield

Diagnostik is
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... NI-AFT, has been
... price over the
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to buy rival

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OLD BUILD
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Booker is no prize for Rose

Stuart Rose was a touch premature in putting a chunk of his Argos prize money into Booker shares. The purchase was a fine tribute to his faith in his own abilities but failed to take full account of the lousy state of his raw material. He is not quite saying that Booker's previous management deserves a prize for fiction but he is quite clear that what he has uncovered in four weeks is very much nastier than he had been led to expect.

His revelations must have left David Simons and John von Spreckelsen thanking the luck or judgment that saw them both abandon plans to take on Booker. Mr Simons has more than enough to occupy him, trying to see through the merger of Somersfield and KwikSave. Mr von Spreckelsen may be bored with Budegens but that is probably a more comfortable situation than the one in which Mr Rose now finds himself.

The man who must take responsibility for much of the mess that Stuart Rose is now uncovering is Jonathan Taylor, who was chairman until a fortnight ago. Under his leadership the company was allowed to degenerate into its current parlous state and misguided diversions were launched into, at heavy cost. Remember when Booker was going to change the face of discount retailing in Britain, devising a concept to bring US-style retail ware-

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

houses to our shores? The result was conspicuously not a home-grown version of the thriving US business, Wal-Mart. In fact, it was just one of many Booker disasters but only reluctantly were the perpetrators of these unhappy adventures eased out of the company.

Charles Bowen was the most recent to go. Mr Taylor, however, remained in position as profits slumped and Booker searched increasingly desperately for a *raison d'être*. Mr Taylor joined Booker in 1959 and became chairman in 1993. While he has presided over the business, some £400 million in shareholder value has simply seeped away.

Auditors fear Abbey habit

Abbey National's decision to change its auditors amounts to a challenge to the fundamental reasoning behind the merger of two of the leading accounting firms. When Price Waterhouse and Coopers decided to join forces, and names, in a muddle of type faces, they were adamant that clients would be happy with the new combine.

That Abbey National has already reached the view that it will be taking its £7 million of business elsewhere must raise the spectre of further defections to come. The Abbey's decision can only hasten the end of mourning by those who would have put Ernst & Young together with KPMG. One firm's losses are, after all, another firm's gains.

Giving priority to the big fish

Of the 147 civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence who left to join the private sector during 1996 and 1997, 40 had conditions imposed on their new appointments. These ranged from having to wait six months before taking up the role, to being precluded from discussions on government contracts.

But the chances are that Abbey's disquiet is not due merely to perceived conflict of interest. Perhaps its directors also feel that they would be better cosseted elsewhere, and maybe even at a better price even if they are reluctant to admit as much. If PriceWaterhouseCoopers is not offering the most favourable deal on price, then another argument

Last call for jobs

THE latest dose of gloom from the CBI shows that the pain in the economy is not restricted to the north of the country. In the South East, confidence has plunged as order books shrink. The Government can produce figures to show that jobs are still being created even if they are vanishing fast from manufacturing. Call centres are the great hope for keeping unemployment figures down but worried southerners are increasingly unlikely to be picking up their phones to order new clothes and trinkets.

C&W saves on costs as revenue increases

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CABLE & Wireless Communications, one of the UK's big three cable companies, yesterday announced that, for the first time, it had experienced revenue growth in all its markets at the same time as cutting costs.

The improved performance produced adjusted pre-tax profits of £73 million in the six months to the end of September, compared with £65 million in the first half of the previous year. Actual pre-tax profits, including exceptional items and millennium costs, were £65 million, against losses of £135 million.

Graham Wallace, chief executive of Cable & Wireless, said: "Excellent progress has been made on both increasing revenue growth and reducing our unit costs. Revenue increased in all four business units, reversing the previous declines in business and corporate markets."

Cable & Wireless shares rose 15p to 476p yesterday, compared with a 12-month high of 716½p.

Total revenue increased by 14 per cent to £1.25 billion. Although simple telephony revenue grew by 8 per cent, growth in areas such as data, video and advanced services grew 39 per cent. Cable & Wireless's underlying profit margins improved from 11 per cent in 1997 to 13 per cent in 1998.



John Houlston, chief executive, says Dairy Crest held on to the benefit of lower milk costs with its added-value brands

Advertising lets Dairy Crest widen margins

BY FRASER NELSON

HEAVY advertising of Cathedral City and Davidstow cheeses has allowed Dairy Crest to hold the prices of its branded products despite a sharp fall in the price of milk.

The company has managed to pocket most of the benefits from the 12 per cent drop in milk prices by spending £1 million a month on television advertising of its main brands.

This year, it intends to spend £12 million on television advertising — a 50 per cent increase on last year's budget — to help it to move away from the commodity cheese market. Shares in Dairy Crest rose 6½p to 32½p yesterday as the company reported pre-tax profits of £20.7 million (£18.7 million) for the six months to September 30 — at the top end of City expectations.

Lonhro Africa board besieged

BY JASON NISSE

BLAKENEY Management yesterday launched its requisition for an extraordinary meeting to oust part of the board of Lonhro Africa after having a proposal for a compromise deal rejected.

The fund management group is demanding the removal of Bernard Asher, Lonhro Africa's chairman, and two other directors, Stephen Walls and Michael Wilson, and their replacement with three Blakeney nominees. It had offered to tone down

Newsquest slowdown

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper group, said yesterday that it was experiencing a slowdown in revenue growth, particularly in recruitment advertising (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Newsquest reported pre-tax profits of £14.3 million for the 13 weeks to October 31 compared with £9.6 million for the 13 weeks to the end of September 1997.

In the 40 weeks of the year so far Newsquest has had turnover of £235 million and pre-tax profits of £49.6 million. The shares rose 8p to 250½p yesterday.

Seagram seeks to silence drinks arm speculation

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SEAGRAM, the Canadian media and drinks group, yesterday moved to quash mounting speculation over its spirits and wine arm by unveiling "a new vision and strategic direction" for the business.

In the wake of its impending \$10.4 billion (£6.3 billion) acquisition of PolyGram, the music and film combine, there have been persistent suggestions that it might seek to offload its drinks arm. But Edgar Bronfman Jr, president and chief executive,

said: "Through its worldwide presence and consistent cash-flow, our spirits and wine business will continue to be a vital contributor to overall company growth and operations."

A spokeswoman added: "This statement underlines that we are definitely in the wine and spirits business to stay." She said that although it did not preclude a merger or strategic alliance with a third party, it showed Seagram was "not simply waiting to merge with someone or sell the business off". Allied Domecq is known to have held talks with Seagram on a possible tie-up.

Seagram's new strategy involves funneling the lion's share of investment and marketing support into its four biggest brands — Chivas Regal and Crown Royal whiskies, Absolut vodka and Captain Morgan rum.

In the first half of 1999, the group will move from a regional and brand group structure to a central management team based in New York.

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Stocks

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK



Investors look for last orders from Marstons

WAS it just so much froth sticking to the brewers yesterday, or are we about to hear the call of "last orders" for Marston Thompson & Everhard?

The Staffordshire brewer of Pedigree ale and Pitcher and Piano pub chain fame stood out with a leap of 30p to 198 1/2p amid claims that rival Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries is poised to offer 27 1/2p a share valuing the business at £180 million.

By the close of business a hefty 1.69 million shares had changed hands in a thin market where traders will normally only make a price in 5,000 at a time. Wolverhampton closed all square at 319p.

Share prices generally drew encouragement from a positive start to trading on Wall Street and early losses were clawed back with the help of a late rally to close virtually unchanged on the day.

The FTSE 100 index, down almost 75 points at its low point, ended just 1.6 off at 5,432.3 as 855 million shares changed hands. The FTSE 250 index was left nursing a fall of 60.5 to 4,874.4.

The early weakness stemmed from a mark down in financials as recent speculative support boiled over and US banks suffered a sell-off. In fact, banks accounted for eight of the worst performers among the top 100 companies. They included Royal Bank of Scotland, 3 1/2p to 703 1/2p, Bank of Scotland, 2 1/2p to 59 1/2p, Amvescap, 1 1/2p to 430 1/2p, Schroders, 3 1/2p to 111 1/2p, Standard Chartered, 1 1/2p to 59 1/2p, Legal & General, 2 1/2p to 65 1/2p, NatWest Bank, 3 1/2p to 93 1/2p, and Allied Zurich, 1 1/2p to 67 1/2p.

British Telecom advanced 9p to 83 1/2p ahead of interim results tomorrow, with Merrill Lynch, the broker, urging clients to "buy". Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £740 million and £754 million, up from £688 million last time. The results will include a £1 billion profit from the sale of its 25 per cent stake in MCI to WorldCom.

Marks & Spencer rallied 1 1/2p to 430 1/2p despite the current boardroom upheaval and Whitbread was wanted, making a rise of 30p to 800p on the back of a "buy" recommendation from Merrill Lynch.

Shareholders of Booker saw the value of their company virtually halve as it



Malcolm Walker, chief executive, saw shares of Iceland up 10 1/2p to 226p after an upbeat presentation to brokers

plunged 54 1/2p to 64 1/2p. It has now become clear why Somerville, 5p cheaper at 44 1/2p, and Hillsdown, unchanged at 92 1/2p, each walked away from bid talks earlier this year with the food distributor.

In its latest profits warning Booker said profits in the second half would fall "significantly short" of expectations. Brokers has originally been

looking for £70 million. They say Stuart Rose, the newly appointed chief executive, faces an uphill struggle in steering the group back on the right track. There will be no payout for shareholders.

Traders reported fresh support for the utilities on the back of positive comments from Credit Lyonnais, the broker. It likes British Energy,

up 29p at 563p, ahead of interim results today, and PowerGen, 10 1/2p higher at 865p.

There is also light for money among the water companies says Credit Lyonnais, which has taken a shine to Anglian Water, up 33p to 903p, and United Utilities, 24p better at 885p. Rival broker Dresner Kleinwort Benson also likes United and is urging clients to switch out of Scottish Power, 1p firmer at 61 1/2p.

Iceland stretched its lead on the week with a rise of 10 1/2p to 226p. It follows an upbeat presentation to brokers on Monday that painted a bright picture of prospects for the food retailer's delivery service.

Reports of a consortium bid to acquire Celtic, the Scottish football club, 30p to 292 1/2p, former Newcastle United manager Kenny Dalglish was said to be linking up with popstar Jim Kerr to make an offer, Celtic said it had received no "formal approach".

A profits warning meant Forvir was one of the worst performers on the day falling 9 1/2p to 146p. Turnover is reckoned to be down 10 per cent on last year and restructuring is likely to cost the group £3 million.

An optimistic independent review of its heart disease test prompted profit taking at Shield Diagnostics. The shares ending 45p lower at 57 1/2p. Through a simple blood test, AFZ can detect the onset of cardio-vascular disease at an early stage.

GILT-EDGED: Bond yields continued to fall across the curve as the market again raced ahead with gains at the longer end stretching to more than 1p. The gloomy British Retail Consortium survey showing a further downturn in consumer spending fuelled the early gains and investors should receive another boost later today when the Bank of England quarterly inflation report is published.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished 50p higher at £14.87 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £1.22 to £142.55, while among shorter-dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 25p firmer at £106.11.

AT NEW YORK: Wall Street turned higher in cautious early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 20.34 points to 8,918.30.

MAJOR INDICES

Table listing major stock indices: New York (midday), Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Tokyo, Nikkei Average, Hong Kong, Hang Seng, Amsterdam, AEX Index, Sydney, ASX, Frankfurt, DAX, Singapore, Straits, Brussels, BEL20, Paris, CAC-40, Zurich, SMI, London, FT 100, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 350, FTSE Europe 100, FTSE All-Share, FTSE Non-Financials, FTSE Food & Bev, FTSE Govt Secs, DAX, DAXI, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, FTSE 350, FTSE Europe 100, FTSE All-Share, FTSE Non-Financials, FTSE Food & Bev, FTSE Govt Secs.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues: Anglian Water, Colruyt, Collective Assets Trust, Exeter Enhanced Inc, First Active, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc, Guinness Plc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues: Innovative Tech, Innovative Tech.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes in shares: RISES, FALLS, Shares listed with price changes.

TEMPUS Cable pulls itself clear

SLOWLY but surely the cable industry is pulling itself out of the large hole it has dug for itself. Cable & Wireless Communications, the group put together from the merger of Nynex, Bell Cable, Videotron and Mercury Communications, achieved after-tax profits of £65 million in the six months to September compared with a £135 million loss last year.

Rather more impressive is the extent to which costs have been controlled as the business has grown, falling from 25 per cent of revenues to 22 per cent.

Some advantages of merger are starting to show through, with the creation of one virtual call centre on three sites to replace a number of incompatible systems. The outsourcing of all IT to IBM in a £1.8 billion over ten years looks like a good deal. However, it is in the area of digital that CWC should benefit in the

longer term. It is a pity the company did not stage a simultaneous digital launch with BSkyB. It could then have benefited from about £100 million of free advertising.

That said, it is unlikely that CWC will lose much business to BSkyB and OnDigital before it has a presence in the digital market from the beginning of next year.

CWC has compared its present analogue access offering of 11 television channels, the necessary set-top box and a telephone line for £12.99 a month. The company says a similar digital package with the rental of necessary equipment would cost £22.85 a month at Sky-Digital and £23.85 a month at OnDigital.

Such comparisons, together with the wide availability of cable and the public's appetite for high-speed Internet access should help CWC shares continue their recovery.

Business Post

WHILE most companies were struggling to cope with the global financial crisis, Business Post was reeling from the departure of both its managing director and its finance director. This helped exaggerate the effect of jittery markets on its share price, which plunged from 957p to just 220p.

With the brothers Kane, who founded the company, now back at the helm, shareholders can only hope that the turmoil has not inflicted long-term damage.

The signs were not good yesterday, however. Profits were down 6 per cent, while growth of administrative expenses outstripped that of sales. As a result, margins fell from 19.5p to 17.2p. Analysts were left with the impression that Business Post was no longer the exciting high-

Senior

SENIOR is a darling of the engineering analysts last autumn and winter, with at least two brokers putting out fit and glossy research pamphlets that recommended buying the stock.

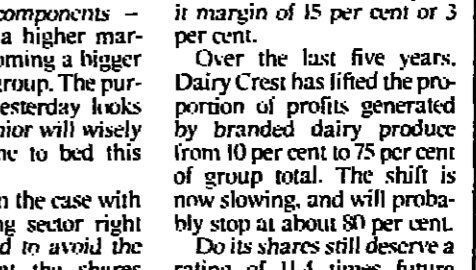
The surge of interest sent the shares to an all time high of 245 1/2p. They are almost half that value now, victims of the blanket selling of the engineering sector.

Senior does have some genuine factors starting to limit growth. Its flagship exhaust connectors, which absorb rocking motion and vibrations and limit emissions, are starting to mature as they become more of a standard feature on cars.

It is exposed to some weak car markets. It is a supplier to Rover, the troubled UK group, and has also had to endure the temporary shutdown of a Fiat factory in Brazil.

However, Senior main-

Lost in the Post



Business Post share price

Source: DataStream

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices: LIFFE COCOA, ICE-BLOR (London S&G) CRUDE OILS, GHI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LIFFE WHEAT, LIFFE POTATO, RUBBER, LIFFE BIFFEX, BRENT (Oil), LONDON METAL EXCHANGE.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures: Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond (RTF), Japanese Govt Bond (JGB), Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Swiss, Three Mth Japanese, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Swiss, FTSE 100.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of Dollar Rates: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, Singapore, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street: Major US stocks including AAPL, AMZN, BAA, BAC, BK, BHP, C, CGC, DIS, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of Life Options: Various insurance and option contracts with prices and terms.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of Money Rates: Prime Bank Rates, Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Local Authority Deposits, Building Society CDs.

OTHER STERLING

Table of Other Sterling: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Czech, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE Volumes: Various FTSE 100 and 250 stocks with volume data.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European Money Deposits: Currency, 7 day, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of Gold/Precious Metals: Bullion Open, High, Low, Close, Platinum, Rhodium, Silver, Palladium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

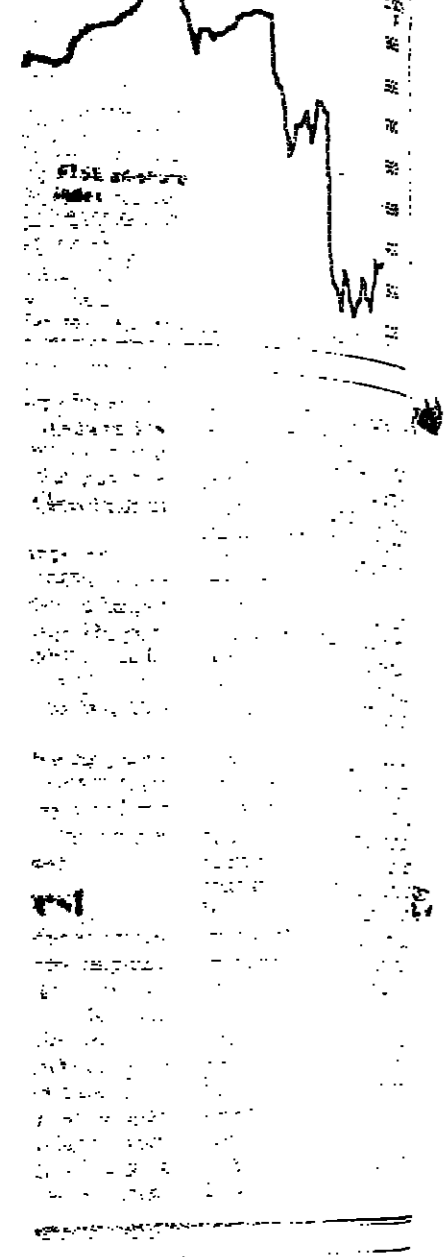
Table of Sterling Spot and Forward Rates: Rate, 1 month, 3 months.

Large advertisement for 'Less' featuring a car and the text 'COUNTDOWN TO EMU' and 'Tunnel to...'

كوزا من الاصل

itself clear

LOST IN THE POST



WALL STREET

What price redemption for the IMF?

The International Monetary Fund is clearly beyond redemption. Gil Diaz, an IMF representative in Managua, was reported by Reuters to have said on Monday that the "pressures of reconstruction should not lead us to abandon (economic) stability" in Nicaragua. So far, estimates suggest that Hurricane Mitch has caused the deaths of 4,000 people with a further 7,000 missing and 800,000 made homeless. Nevertheless, Sfor Diaz said, Nicaragua will still be bound by existing IMF agreements that include cutting public spending, laying off government workers, raising the cost of public services and privatising state-owned firms.

In comparison with the IMF, the announcements yesterday by France and Britain look positively enlightened. France has said that it intends to cancel part or all of the debt owed by Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, a genuine example of leadership given that France is estimated to hold 2 per cent of the £4.1 billion owed by Honduras and 2 per cent of the £6.1 billion owed by Nicaragua.

France is setting up a trust fund, donating £10 million each to start it off. Given that it is astonishingly unlikely that debts will be serviced by these ruined economies, the moratorium simply appears to be a formalisation of reality. The trust fund is designed to help Mitch victims service their debts to multilateral institutions. In other words, the IMF's main shareholders are temporarily paying the IMF's bills. It would be far more to the point if the IMF called its own moratorium or, better still, simply cancelled the outstanding debt. But no — the IMF always gets paid.

Various arguments are mobilised against genuine debt forgiveness. The main one is moral hazard. If creditors simply wipe the debts out, won't developing countries be encouraged simply to build them up again? This is unlikely. For one thing, all official and bilateral flows to developing countries now have clear conditions attached that would make it far more difficult to get away with profligacy or corruption. The price of misbehaviour, in the tough world of con-

ditionality, would be an effective moratorium on new aid and loans. It is a mark of how scared developing countries are that the tap will be turned off that, despite the national catastrophe of El Niño, Peru (which, having effectively defaulted in the 1980s, knows what it is like to be in the financial wilderness) has refused to renegotiate its annual debt payments despite clearly lacking the money to address the emergency.

In any case, there are imaginative alternatives to pure debt cancellation that would ensure the money was spent wisely. Debt conversion is one. This covers various schemes in which debt is reduced or cancelled and diverted to social or environmental programmes. Conversion has already been done extensively in Latin America, according to Mariano Valderama, director of the Peruvian

Social Studies Centre in Lima. Under the Americas Initiative launched by President Bush in 1990, for example, Chile and the US agreed to reduce \$15.7 million of Chile's total debt of \$39.3 million in interest payments to finance environmental protection. A similar switch in resources would be achieved under Oxfam's proposal for resources from debt relief/cancellation to be used specifically — and in a monitored way — on health and education. Uganda has already offered to do this. The ideas are out there but the political will is not. Hurricane Mitch was an opportunity for humanity and boldness, a terrible shock that would force a quantum leap in thinking on debt and development. All the debts of the four Central American countries most affected should immediately be cancelled. Having surmounted the psychological shock once, creditors would find it easier to do it again. Perhaps Rwanda could be next. Under current HIPC rules, it won't qualify for relief until at least 2001.



JANE BUSH

context of the dreadful problems now faced in Central America, Nicaragua would not receive any debt relief until 2001 instead of 2002. Honduras has not even started on the HIPC process and could be a minimum of six years from relief.

Gordon Brown has argued repeatedly that unilateral cancellation is pointless because debt payments to other creditors would simply go up by the same amount. The truth of Britain's thinking is

Britain can gain practical benefits from Germany's experience in the run-up to the launch of EMU

Lessons in preparing for the euro

Sigrid Auferbeck finds out about some of the implications for business of the single currency

Rotherham is playing host to a euro experiment. Euro notes are being distributed on the streets of the South Yorkshire town to offer a taster of what the future may hold for shoppers and traders. But the conversion is only a test run and, much to the frustration of the CBI, no date has been set for Britain to join the single currency.

The CBI's great fear is that British industry will be left behind when fellow EU states switch to the euro. But the evidence is that, despite having a headstart on the UK, preparations in all but the biggest German businesses are not that much more advanced.

Large German companies began preparations as soon as the euro timetable was set out at the EU summit in Madrid 1995. Many medium-sized and small companies, which left euro preparations on the back burner until this year, were warned earlier this year by industrial and trade confederations that they were ignoring upcoming problems. In August DIHT, the German confederation of industry and commerce, criticised such companies for risking being caught napping by the launch of the euro on January 1.



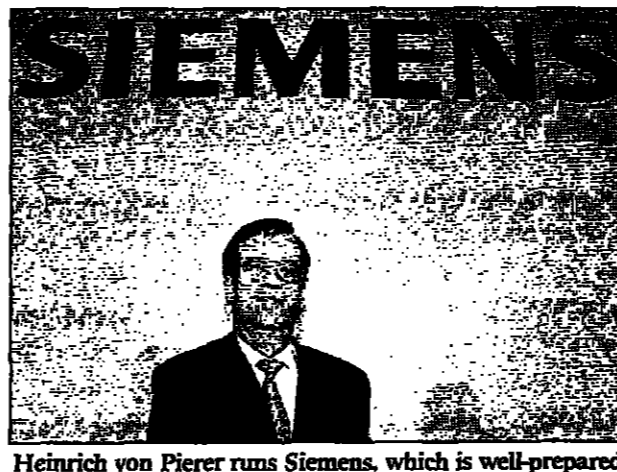
A Rotherham shop window offers a foretaste of life with the euro as the town's traders and shoppers try out the new currency

about the biggest companies such as Siemens — they started through preparations early. Also, small firms cause few worries. Although they started their preparations late, they are expected to be flexible enough to adapt quickly. The problem areas look like being among the Mittelstand, Germany's medium-sized companies. Stefan von der Heiden, spokesman for Mittelstandsverband, the association of medium-sized businesses, said: "The Mittelstand tends to ignore the fact that they need to do more than just open a euro account. For them, the euro will change patterns of competition in Europe."

Reasons for late preparations are easy to find: German participation in the euro seemed uncertain until May. "Many thought the whole project might be called off," said Reinhard Kudusz, euro expert at the BDI, the German industrial confederation. The German economy was unlikely to fulfil the Maastricht criteria, and senior politicians openly argued against the euro. "The Brussels euro summit in May changed the mood," said Bertold Busch, of the German Economic Institute in Cologne. The country was named as one of the founders of economic and monetary union (EMU), making it clear that the euro would inevitably come. Over the summer, many entrepreneurs attended last-minute euro seminars held by the BDI, trade and industrial confederations, and local banks. "Knowledge about the euro was poor until this year, but has improved significantly over the summer," said von der Heiden. Now, 80 per cent of smaller businesses appear to be technically prepared, according to Ortwin Weirich, chairman of



51 DAYS TO GO



Heinrich von Pierer runs Siemens, which is well-prepared



went into the more sedate areas of hotels and brewing. He owns St Peter's Brewery at Bungay, Suffolk, and has just received an extraordinary plea for money from, of all places, Andorra. Murphy was at a conference this summer on brands and trademarks in Morocco. Sandra Cruzado of the Andorran trademark and patent office has just written saying what a pleasure it was to meet him there. (He has never heard of her.) She is offering "our service for protection of your intellectual property" but only by December 7, please, as after this "no prior use will be possible to be claimed". He says none of his product goes to Andorra, but it is just feasible that someone there might decide to infringe on his trademark and produce there. "I'm not going to pay it —

held with it," Murphy says. But plenty of large companies are being taken for a ride, particularly by breakout former Soviet Union countries, for example, he says. The sums involved are so small, up to £2,000 to protect a trademark for ten years, that it is safer to pay than take the risk.

When he started his new career Murphy bought the Plymouth Gin brand from Allied Domecq. He found more than 100 trademarks had been registered in the most obscure places. "They were all of them worthless."

There is an inspiring piece in Real Business about wacky bosses and how they go about making their businesses buzz. Lots of stories about practical jokes played on the staff — my, how they laughed. Until they were told to stop — and three case histories.

One is of PanCredit, a software house whose maverick managing director nurtured a no-blame culture and avoided executive pensions, company cars and other bureaucratic trappings. For some reason his name is omitted from the pen-portrait of his company and its revolutionary way of going about its business. Only in a postscript do you learn that Kevin Hughes, he of the "powerful but informal personality", had left abruptly after personality clashes with customers and the biggest institutional shareholder.

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Tunnel toll

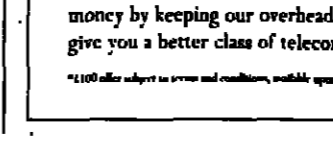
A GLINT of light at the end of the Rotherham Tunnel. Those who commute from the south and the east into the City will have noticed that the Tunnel has been closed. (You will have been able to tell because of the queues of traffic back most of the way to the Channel Tunnel and Canvey Island.)

A couple of weeks ago I wrote that the firms at Canary Wharf, who expected to be badly hit by the closure, were clubbing together to raise extra funds to enable repairs to be done more quickly. They have offered £100,000 towards the £1.5 million cost of replacing ventilation fans in the Tunnel, and this has been accepted.

I am told that now the engineers have had a look at the work, there is better than a 50/50 chance that the job can be finished by December 20 rather than dragging on, as initially planned, until January 10. No one is making firm promises, and it depends on work carrying on day and night without disrupting the lives of local residents.

Far flung
JOHN MURPHY used to run Interbrand, the specialist consultancy, before he sold it and

Fashion tips
I AM not allowed to write much about Peter Young's appearance yesterday. But I have asked those more *à la mode*, perhaps, than Young himself and I can offer some tips.



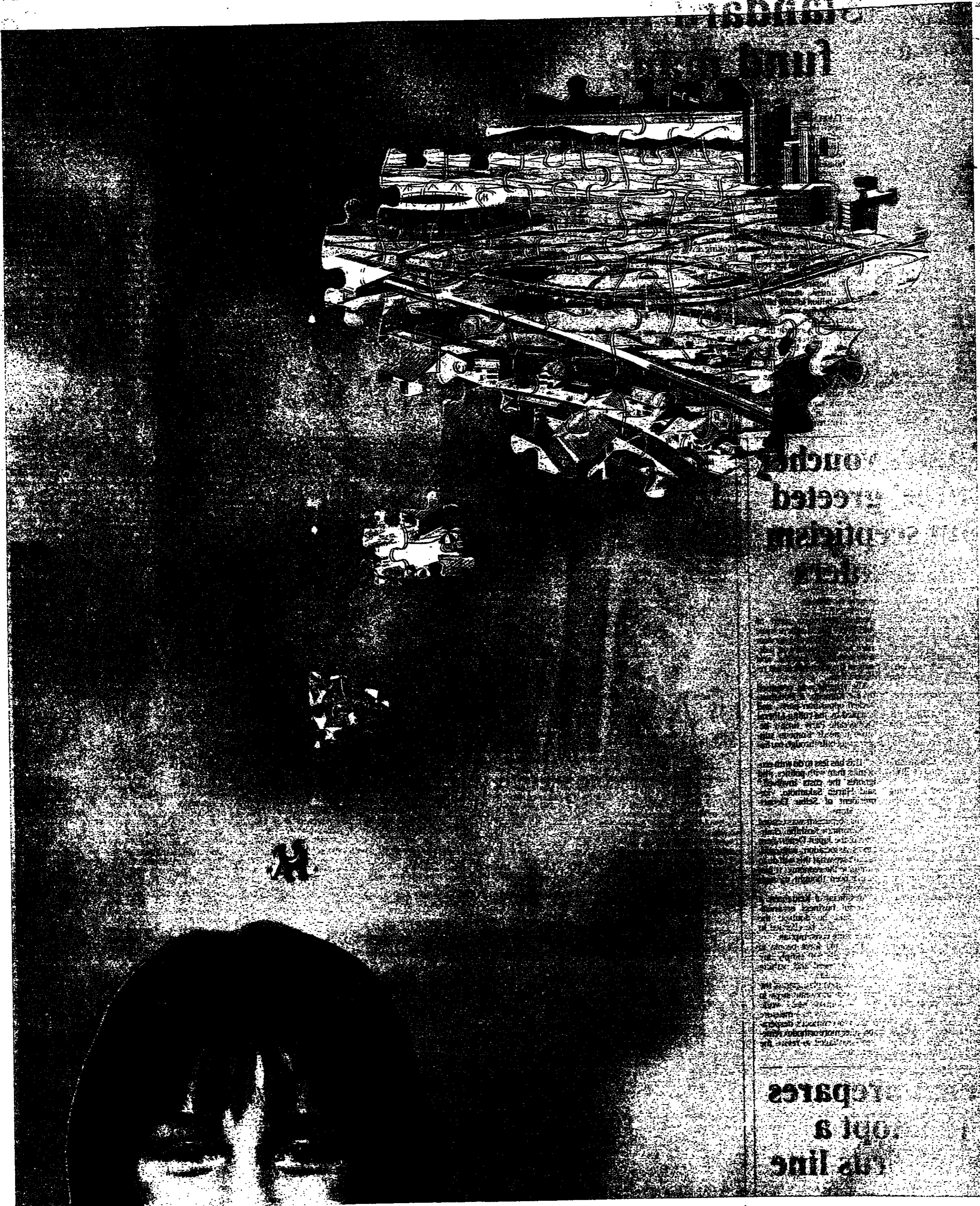
Young: should think Prada

THE TIMES
Interactive service
Open... for
business

Japan's voucher 'spree' greeted with scepticism by retailers

Regal prepares to adopt a new Corus line

CORUS



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Our water companies are continually improving the quality of supplies to more than 80 million people around the world. Our waste management systems encourage recycling. Our power-generating

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Thanks to Vivendi companies, transport systems in cities across Europe are better planned and more cost-effective.

Every year, our construction companies manage over 100,000 sites around the world. Recent projects include the Stade de France on the outskirts of Paris, Cairo's new rapid transit system and the Vasco da Gama bridge in Lisbon.

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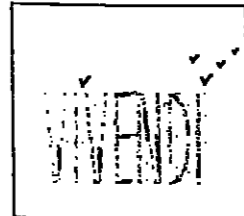
of communications, providing easy access to mobile phone networks, the Internet and digital media.

Reading this, you might deduce that such wide-ranging activities are commensurate with considerable financial growth.

And you'd be right.

Vivendi is one of Europe's largest companies, with an annual turnover approaching £21 billion.

All things considered, it seems that when the customer comes first, success soon follows.



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هكذا من الأصل

DAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

NEEDS

Interactive service Open... for business

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the planned home shopping group yesterday branded itself as Open... and said that it would deliver its first interactive services to the consumer by next spring.

Four retail groups have signed up for the virtual shopping mall - Great Universal Stores, Iceland, Midland Bank and Woolworths.

BIB, launched in May 1997, expects to invest up to £375 million in the venture. Its shareholders are BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent interest, BT, Midland Bank and Matsushita.

As well as home shopping and banking, Open... will offer games provided by Visi-onik, a Danish games developer, and Talk 21, a new e-mail system from BT. The first interactive television advertisers will be Coca-Cola, Ford and Unilever. James Ackerman, chief executive of BIB, said that there would be a full marketing launch next autumn.

Standard Life reveals fund management

By GAVIN LAMSDEN

STANDARD LIFE, the mutual insurer based in Edinburgh, is launching a fund management company in a bid to take on the top investment houses in the City.

As Europe's largest mutual insurer, Standard Life already manages money on behalf of one in seven adults in the UK through its wide range of pensions, annuities and investment products.

Standard Life Investments, the new subsidiary, aims to exploit this track record with an aggressive attack on the retail and institutional investment markets, hoping to increase funds under management from £60 billion to £80 billion over the next five years.

Under Sandy Crombie, chief executive, formerly the insurer's chief investment officer, Standard Life Investments will focus on its key markets in the UK, Canada and Ireland. However, it has ambitions to become a global player.

The subsidiary will employ 500 people housed in a separate office in Edinburgh. It plans to increase staff by up to

7 per cent a year, in contrast with many fund managers who are laying off employees in a bid to cut costs.

Mr Crombie said: "We have been planning this move for four years, during which time we have made significant investments in people and refined our processes."

Standard Life Investments marks a second stage in the insurer's rapid expansion programme. Since launching a banking division at the start of the year, Standard has swept competitors aside, attracting over £1 billion from savers.

Although the launch comes at a tricky time in world financial markets, Standard Life believes fund management offers better margins than its traditional core business of providing pensions.

The new company is planning to take more than 5 per cent of the retail funds market, where it operates mainly through independent financial advisers, and in the corporate pooled funds market where it runs £6.9 billion for institutional clients.



Sandy Crombie, chief executive of Standard Life Investments

Business Post vows to deliver improved sales

By CHRIS AYRES

BUSINESS POST, the parcel delivery group, yesterday attempted to put its boardroom troubles behind it, as it pledged to cut costs and improve sales and margins.

The company, whose shares have lost almost a third of their value over the past six months, has seen the recent departure of Mick Jones, its managing director, and Torquil Montague-Johnstone, its finance director. It is expected they will receive £125,000 and £45,000 in compensation respectively.

It is thought that the two men clashed with the company's founders, the brothers Peter and Michael Kane. The brothers have now given up their non-executive roles to become chief executive and managing director respectively.

Peter Fitzwilliam, the former head of finance for Odeon Cinemas, has been appointed finance director.

The boardroom turmoil has resulted in provisions for re-organisation of about £500,000.

Business Post yesterday reported a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits from £9.4 million to £8.8 million for the six months to September 30, on sales of £52.5 million, up 12.7 per cent from £46.6 million.

Earnings per share fell 7 per cent to 11.6p and an interim dividend of 5p, up from 4.4p, will be paid on January 5.

The company said its administrative expenses had risen by more than £1 million to £6 million. It added: "The board has already set in motion plans to rectify this situation and will be seeking to reduce the cost base of the company."

Neil Benson, chairman, said: "Relative to our market these were satisfactory results. However, the cost base has risen too fast and the new management team has already focused on reducing this, while at the same time increasing our sales effort."

Shares in the company rose 2.5p to 34.5p yesterday.

Tempos, page 28

Japan's voucher 'spree' greeted with scepticism by retailers

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S innovative scheme to give away shopping vouchers to prompt a consumer-led economic recovery may be the stuff of dreams on Britain's depressed high street, but Japanese shopkeepers are deeply sceptical.

Retailers in Japan remain unconvinced that the handout will trigger the spending spree promised by the politicians who devised the scheme.

Under a plan agreed yesterday, shopping coupons worth ¥20,000 (£98) will be distributed shortly to about 35 million Japanese citizens.

The Government is setting aside ¥700 billion for the vouchers, which are supposed to overcome the resistance of Japanese consumers to opening their wallets.

The idea is that giving away coupons will get people spending, serve to stimulate consumption and help lift the economy out of recession. The economy is in its worst downturn since the Second World War and stagnant domestic demand is the main culprit.

Last week the Government said that household spending dropped 1.5 per cent in September from a year earlier, the eleventh month of decline. Uncertainties about pensions and worries about rising unemployment have reinforced the nation's ingrained propensity to save.

Under the plan, vouchers will be given to children under 16, to the bed-ridden and low-

income pensioners aged 65 and over. The vouchers might be used for goods and services such as toys, petrol and haircuts within six months, and only in the town where the recipient lives.

The scheme was proposed by the Komeito, a Buddhist-backed opposition party, and accepted by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party simply because it needs Komeito support to get bills through parliament.

"This has less to do with economics than with politics, and ignores the post-war problem," said Haruo Sakamoto, vice-president of Seibu Department Store.

This scepticism was echoed by Kazumasa Koshino, chairman of the Japan Department Stores Association, who said: "I can't see what this will do to stimulate the economy. It just hasn't been thought through properly."

An official of Keidaires, a powerful business organisation, said he doubted the scheme would be effective in stimulating consumption.

"You can't force people to shop. People will spend only what they need and nothing more," he said.

The coupon plan, part of an emergency economic plan to be announced next week, smacks to many as a measure of the Government's desperation, after more orthodox remedies have failed to revive the economy.

Regal prepares to adopt a new Corus line

By DOMINIC WALSH

A RECENT trend towards corporate makeovers that has brought us the likes of Diageo, Zeneca and Arriva is about to envelop Regal Hotel Group. In an effort to throw off its dowdy image, the mid-market hotelier is to be reborn as Corus.

The new brand will be rolled out across the group's 91 hotels as part of an £80 million investment launched earlier this year. As the three-year programme progresses the Regal name will eventually be phased out, at which point the intention is to seek shareholder approval to adopt

Corus as the name of the company. Charles Vere Nicoll, Regal's chairman, admitted that the group had been forced to drop its first choice after it was discovered that the name was used by a small French group. He expressed exasperation at "the vast amount of searching one has to do throughout the world to make sure nobody else already has a name".

He said Corus had deliberately been chosen to give the group "a sleek, modern" appeal, and to address the poor consumer awareness of the Regal name. But he emphasised that Corus would not replace a "lovely individual name, but rather be used as an 'endorsement brand'".

The Corus name, which was drafted up by the brand consultancy N.Y.F.F. Company, is based on the word *Corus*. The name, according to the company, is that "the group is made up of many individual people and people, each with its own character, yet all joining in to create the whole".

So why not *Chorus*? "The 'h' was dropped to fit more comfortably with the design challenge convention."

Mr Vere Nicoll refused to be drawn on the cost of the exercise, but added: "I think it's been done very sensibly in terms of costs."

CORUS

Dropped "h" as a challenge

The best way to understand our services is to share the same view.



Telecommerce. We've developed a solution that meets our customers' needs better than France Telecom. Take our new e-commerce services as an example. To ensure online transaction security - confidentiality, authentication and authorization - we've developed the most advanced solution. Our greatest concern, we developed Telecommerce. Find out more about Telecommerce at www.telecommerce.fr. You'll find that the outlook for your business is much brighter.

Let's build a smarter business. France Telecom



BASF arm fears gas shortage in Western Europe

FROM CARL MORTSHED IN FRANKFURT

WESTERN EUROPE could face a severe gas shortage and sharply rising prices in the next century unless huge investments are made soon in new supply lines, it was claimed yesterday.

The chief executive of Wintershall, Germany's independent gas supplier and partner of Gazprom, the Russian gas company, predicted that Europe will face a shortfall of 80 billion cubic metres of gas by 2010, even if the initial Yamal pipeline, bringing gas from Siberia across Poland to Germany, is built on time.

Herbert Detharding, chief executive, said: "The current oil price is swinging the pendulum one way but there is no question it will be a seller's market by 2005. Norway is producing as much as it can. Holland is producing as much as it is allowed. Fortunately, there is currently additional supply from the UK North Sea." Mr Detharding said that the supply shortfall would equal two more Yamal pipelines: "If you want another US\$25 billion (£15 billion) project finished in time you had better start talking about financing it now."

His comments coincided with the news that Wintershall's parent, BASF, the German chemical combine, had suffered a 10 per cent decline in profits in the third quarter. The company gave warning that 1999 would be a difficult year and admitted that it would fail to achieve its target return on assets of 13 per cent.

Dr Jurgen Strube, chairman of BASF, said that the return on assets for 1998 would even undershoot the previous year's figure of 12.6 per cent.

BASF's headline pre-tax profit for the third quarter was up 12 per cent to DM1.5 billion (£537 million) but Mr Strube said that the figure included the benefit of disposals as well as special charges in the previous year. He predicted that profits would be slightly ahead for the full year.

Dr Strube said that the German Government's plans for energy taxes would hurt the company, costing BASF DM130 million a year at its Ludwigshafen plant. Falling sales in Asia and South America contributed to a 7 per cent fall in third-quarter revenue.

Wingas, Wintershall's joint venture with Gazprom, has

captured more than 12 per cent of the German gas market and BASF is forecasting that its earnings will increase fivefold by 2001.

Dr Strube said that a separate stock market listing for Wintershall was something the company had considered. "It is something we think about but we think at the moment it is better within BASF."

Mr Detharding said that more money needed to be spent to ensure that Siberian supplies arrived at the German border. Gazprom is building the Russian section of the 4,000km pipeline but the company is under financial pressure at home, with billions of dollars in bad debts due to non-payment by domestic customers for gas.

Wingas recently completed a pipeline link-up to the UK-Continent gas interconnector, which will allow surplus UK gas to be exported directly to Germany's industrial powerhouse in the North Rhine Westphalia region. The company plans to sell capacity to rivals, hoping to stimulate free competition in pipeline capacity, so far refused by Ruhrgas, the main competitor of Wingas.



Plane speaking: Terry Garthwaite, group finance director, left, with Andrew Parrish

Paramount set for acquisition trail

PARAMOUNT, the tenanted pub group based in Chester, is to hit the acquisition trail after putting its past problems behind it. Christopher Mills, who was appointed chairman at the time of a rights issue in January 1997, is to step down after overseeing the group's financial reconstruction and its return to profitability.

Yesterday, Mr Mills unveiled a recovery from losses of £1.4 million to a pre-tax profit of £539,000 in the year to May 31, with fully diluted earnings per share reaching 2.71p, compared with losses last year of 7.04p, which were caused by property writedowns and bad debts. There is still no dividend, however. A spokesman for Paramount, in which Nomura is a 10 per cent shareholder, said: "This is now a clean company with 150 pubs in the North West and it is looking to build the business by actively seeking deals. They are looking at all the options, be it sale and leasebacks or securitisation or acquiring other pubs."

Tilemaker in black

PILKINGTON'S TILES, formerly known as Quilgott, returned to profit in the first half of this year, earning £1.6 million before tax in the six months to September 30, compared with a loss of £323,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.6p a share, against losses of 0.3p last time. There is again no interim dividend but the company said it was "increasingly confident" of being able to pay a final dividend. The shares were unchanged at 11p yesterday. The company said net debt had been reduced by £922,000 to £4.8 million since the last year end, giving gearing of 34.5 per cent.

Capita completes stake

CAPITA GROUP, the outsourcing company, is to acquire the outstanding 33 per cent stake it does not own in Equitable Revenue Holdings for £82 million. Equitable is a debt recovery company serving the local government sector. In 1997 the company earned pre-tax profits of £2.65 million on turnover of £11.4 million. Net assets were £1.96 million at the last year end. Paul Pindar, managing director of Capita, said the acquisition would give access to Equitable's call centre and customer services infrastructure to assist other parts of the company involved in revenue collection.

BA signs for Airbus

BRITISH AIRWAYS has signed a purchase agreement for 59 single-aisle Airbus aircraft. The contract is the first firm order arising from the airline's announcement in August that it would buy up to 188 A320 aircraft, making Airbus the main supplier of its single-aisle short-haul fleet. All will be powered by IAE engines. The order is the first that BA has placed directly with Airbus. This week, BA said that it was cutting back its planned increase in seat capacity next year from 8 per cent to 2 per cent as the world economic slowdown hits air travel.

SB to help smokers

SMITHKLINE Beecham is to spend £12 million on the UK launch of its smoking cessation patches, which are to be offered with specially tailored advice for each smoker who uses them. The nicotine replacement patches, which will be called Nicotin CQ in the UK, will come with a free phone number that will allow customers to give details of their smoking habits to SmithKline Beecham. After analysing the information, the healthcare company will within 48 hours dispatch a "behavioural support plan" to give the most appropriate advice.

UK mergers fall back

TOTAL UK mergers and acquisitions activity fell back sharply in the third quarter of this year, at £12.5 billion, compared with £19.8 billion in the preceding quarter, yesterday's official figures showed. The component that slowed the most was domestic acquisitions by UK companies, which fell from £11.9 billion in the second quarter to £5.7 billion in the third. With the total number of intra-UK acquisitions remaining high, the figures suggested a greater number of mid- and small-cap deals taking place.

Atrium Cockell deal

LOMOND UNDERWRITING, the Lloyd's company, is to merge with privately owned Atrium Cockell Group. Lomond is issuing 13.2 million new shares to the vendors of Atrium Cockells, valued at £25 million at the price of 194p at which the shares remain suspended. Atrium Cockell's two managed syndicates 570 and 609 have a capacity for the 1999 year of account of about £116 million. Sir Raymond Johnstone, chairman of Lomond, will chair the enlarged group, called Atrium Underwriting. Shares begin trading on December 3.

Ashtene expands

ASHTENE HOLDINGS, the property investment company specialising in the industrial sector, has acquired four additional industrial estates in the Midlands for £5.5 million, showing an initial yield of 11.5 per cent. Three properties in Derby, Nottingham and West Bromwich were acquired from IM Properties for £4.7 million and a property in Brackley, Northamptonshire, was acquired from the receivers of LPA. Last month, Ashtene also completed six disposals, raising £2.2 million.

Columbus purchase

COLUMBUS GROUP, the provider of information to business and the consumer sector, is buying EFM Publishing, publisher of *European Fund Manager* magazine, for a profit-related consideration of up to £2 million. The magazine was founded in January 1996 and is distributed to 9,000 fund managers and investment institutions in 20 countries. EFM earned pre-tax profits of £141,000 on turnover of £752,000 in the year to January 31.

Senior beefs up aerospace unit with Jet deal

BY ADAM JONES

SENIOR ENGINEERING is beefing up its aerospace division with the purchase of Jet Products, an American parts supplier to both Boeing and Airbus, for £33.7 million.

The acquisition is the biggest yet made by Senior, whose chief executive is Andrew Parrish, and comes as aircraft makers and airlines prepare for a slowdown in growth.

Glenn Timms, director of corporate development at Senior, said that when the aircraft market comes off its cyclical peak, probably in 1999, Jet will have the advantage of selling more parts for short-haul planes than long haul.

Some industry observers have predicted that demand for short-haul airliners will be strongest in the next few years. BA said earlier this week that it was switching to smaller aircraft on some routes to reduce overall capacity and increase profits.

Jet is based in San Diego and made pre-tax profits of about £5 million in the year to

September 30 on sales of about £27.2 million. It makes rings and flanges for turbine markets.

The Senior deal will enrich Ronald Blair, the president of Jet and owner of 40 per cent of the company, by £13.5 million. Mr Blair, who will stay with Jet as general manager, will take £2.4 million of this payment in Senior shares, which, like most companies in the engineering sector, have tumbled in the past few months. Since the summer, when they reached a high of 245p, the shares have nearly halved in value.

Mr Timms said the group may make more small acquisitions, possibly in its automotive division, where Senior supplies flexible connectors and other parts mainly to the American market.

He said interest cover after the Jet deal will stand at about eight times but it is unlikely that Senior will go below six times.

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UMECO looks to spend £20m

BY SAAED SHAH

UMECO, the aerospace parts and service group, is seeking acquisitions and could spend up to £20 million on the right deal without needing to go to the equity market.

The company yesterday announced the sale of its Fluid Transfer subsidiary for £7.15 million. It has a £10 million credit line in place with bankers and the disposal will boost net cash reserves to £8 million.

Clive Snowdon, chief executive, said UMECO, which has just secured an 11-year contract to supply Rolls-Royce, is hoping to conclude at least one acquisition before March 1999. He said that the sale of

Fluid Transfer completed the reorganisation of the group.

There now remains only one non-aerospace business in the company, GRP Material Supplies, a glass fibre distributor.

"There has been no slowdown in civil aviation orders and we expect the military side to pick up with the boost from the Eurofighter project," Mr Snowdon said.

Pre-tax profit for the six months to September 30 was up 33 per cent from last time at £2.7 million, with turnover 17 per cent higher at £26.7 million. Earnings per share were 12.0p (9.7p) and the interim dividend is 2.4p (2.1p).

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THE TIMES WEL

Nissan as Ja car sale

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Ryanair prof up 24% as ne routes take o

Record sales sen Wal-Mart past S

Nissan in red as Japanese car sales slump

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NISSAN announced a net loss of 32.55 billion yen (£159.6 million) for the half-year to the end of September and said that it expected a consolidated net loss of ¥30 billion for the full year.

Japan's second-biggest car manufacturer, which had previously forecast that it would break even, said that a severe slump in domestic car sales and large appraisal losses on securities holdings would bring about its sixth consolidated net loss in seven years. First-half sales fell 7.7 per cent, with domestic sales down 11.8 per cent, and exports sliding 3.6 per cent.

Nissan's performance in Europe provided a shaft of light in an otherwise bleak picture. The company projected a ¥5 billion profit for the full fiscal year from its operations in Europe, including plants in the UK and Spain. But officials declined to give

a breakdown for each of its manufacturing and sales operations, and would not say how a drastic restructuring and cost-cutting drive might affect the Sunderland plant or individual operations in Europe.

Nissan said that it had lowered its forecast for domestic and overseas vehicle production. It now expected a ¥5 billion loss in America, compared with an initial breakeven forecast. Nissan expects a ¥10 billion loss in Mexico due in large part to the peso's slide against the dollar.

Hit by the fall in Japanese share prices, Nissan said it suffered an appraisal loss of ¥76 billion on its securities holdings.

Kanemitsu Anraku, managing director, emphasised that the company would step up aggressive efforts to trim costs, cut debts and reduce the number of models.

He said: "The situation has grown more severe, and we'll have to consider additional steps if our reform plans are insufficient."

In its large-scale restructuring programme, Nissan has sold off part of its Tokyo headquarters, shed assets including an advertising subsidiary, and has embarked on reducing the number of models and vehicle platforms. The company hopes to reduce its debts, which currently stand at ¥3,900 billion, by about ¥400 billion during the current financial year.

Nissan's range is widely seen as unexciting, and financial constraints have hindered development of completely new models. The result is that Nissan has suffered more than its principal rivals Toyota and Honda from Japan's worsening recession and consumers' deep reluctance to spend.



John Morgan says Porvair suffered difficult trading conditions in the third quarter and a restructuring plan is now in place

Porvair shares slide as loss looms

SHARES of Porvair fell 111½p yesterday after the manufacturer of microporous materials said it expected to incur a pre-tax loss in the current year (Martin Barrow writes).

John Morgan, chairman, said the company had experienced difficult trading across many of its activities in the third quarter of the year, which normally accounts for more than 50 per cent of annual profits on some 30 per cent of sales. As a result, group turnover in the year to the end of this month was now expected

to be 10 per cent lower than in 1997. A number of restructuring measures are now being implemented, giving rise to an exceptional charge of £3 million, plunging the company into the red. In 1997 Porvair earned pre-tax profits of £6.8 million.

Porvair has suffered from weak export demand due to the strong pound. Some 80 per cent of the group's UK production is sold overseas.

The distribution businesses of Porvair Fabrics, Socks and Fernair Leathers will incur losses of more than £2 million.

Sales from filtration and footwear have been hard hit and Porvair Ceramics has seen orders postponed until next year.

Cost-cutting measures will include a 14 per cent reduction in the workforce, with some loss-making businesses closed and marginal product lines discontinued.

Yesterday's share price fall saw £28.68 million wiped off Porvair's market value to around £33 million. Mr Morgan said: "Core businesses remain profitable in these difficult times. Cashflow is strong. Trading prospects for 1999 are good."

Oftel cuts back in drive for flexibility

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TELECOMS watchdog has overhauled the way it operates in order to respond more speedily to business and customers.

The shake-up has cut the key departments in the organisation from ten to two. David Edmonds, the telecoms regulator, said that would enable a more flexible response to communication companies seeking guidance and to customers making complaints.

While Oftel has been praised in the past for its decision-making, it has been criticised for the length of time it has taken to make judgments. This has been seen as problematic for such a quickly developing industry.

Mr Edmonds implemented the changes after being questioned by the Parliamentary Committee, the parliamentary spending watchdog.

Oftel is to have its funding increased by the Treasury from £10.5 million to £11.7 million to pay for extra resources.

Espresso bar chain to steam ahead with expansion plan

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Coffee Republic, the espresso bar chain, frothed 30 per cent higher yesterday as the AIM-listed group unveiled better than expected maiden half-year results.

Turnover for the six months to September 30 soared from £600,000 to £1.9 million although losses reached £700,000 due to rapid expansion allied to a conservative accounting policy on opening expenses. However, this was ahead of broker forecasts of about £850,000 at the time of the group's listing 12 months ago. It joined the market through a reverse takeover of Arion Properties.

Like-for-like sales grew by an impressive 24 per cent and the shares, which had dived from a high in March of 27p on fears of an economic slowdown, rose 3p higher to 13p.

Since March the group has more than doubled in size from 11 stores to 25 — its 25th opens in York on Friday — and it expects to have about 35

by next spring. The company does not disclose capital expenditure levels, but new stores are thought to cost an average of about £150,000.

Bobby Hashemi, managing director of Coffee Republic, said the company was "right on schedule" with its development programme and was seeing no sign of any slowdown in sales. "I'm not saying we're recession-proof, but our average spend, at south of £2.50 a head, clearly puts us in a comfortable position vis-à-vis other retailers. We are a small ticket item."

He said that signs of a softening in property prices were also benefiting its expansion programme, particularly in London where most of its new stores are planned.

However, it is also considering opportunities in Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester. "At this stage we have enough cash to last us until next summer," said Mr Hashemi.

Ryanair profits up 24% as new routes take off

BY SAAED SHAH

RYANAIR, Ireland's cut-price airline, yesterday said record first-half figures for passenger traffic, revenues and profits reflected the successful launch of six new routes from London to Europe.

The company announced a 24 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to Sept-

ember 30 at Ir£29.38 million (£26.71 million), on turnover of Ir£130.46 million, against Ir£96.90 million last time. Earnings were Ir13.75p a share, up from Ir11.84p.

Michael O'Leary, chief executive, said he was optimistic about the rest of the financial year despite the intense competition at the low fare end of the market.

He said that the success of the new routes, which had been profitable since their launch, showed that the company was "taking low fare competition to BA, SAS, Alitalia and Air France".

Mr O'Leary said Ryanair was concerned that the lack of consumer confidence in the UK may hit demand. But he added: "Ryanair is well positioned with substantial cash, a strong balance sheet and the lowest cost base which will enable it to withstand any short-term downturns."



O'Leary: cause for optimism

Record sales send Wal-Mart past \$1bn

WAL-MART Stores, the world's largest retailer, achieved record sales that drove third-quarter net income above the \$1 billion mark (£602 million) for the second quarter in a row.

The American operator of discount stores and Sam's Club warehouses reported profits of \$1.009 billion, or 45 cents per share, up 27.4 per cent from \$792 million a year

ago. Third-quarter sales rose 16.4 per cent to a record \$33.5 billion from \$28.7 billion.

At the end of October the company had 1,863 Wal-Mart stores, 543 Supercenters, and 450 Sam's Clubs in the US.

The group has more than 600 operations internationally. Worldwide, the company employs almost 900,000 people, of which 780,000 are based in the US.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type and name. Includes columns for fund name, price, and other financial metrics.

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Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main table containing various stock market categories: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and SUPPORT SERVICES.

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THE TIMES ARTS

ARCHITECTURE Ten cheers for the restored Royal Exchange PAGE 38



Making the wave

Slurring his jokes

According to a newspaper profile last week Jackie Mason is 'the Bernard Manning of Brooklyn'...

COMEDY

warmed up from past performances. In spite of the Shakespearean title and the thespian-like portrait on the programme, Mason prefers topical themes...

The last time I saw him he was gleefully mopping up the O.J. Simpson trial. The Lewinsky case gives him an even better opening...

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CLIVE DAVIS



Ian McKellen as Dr Dorn and Clare Higgins as Irina Arkadina are both excellent in Jude Kelly's engrossing production of Chekhov's The Seagull

Take me, I'm yours

Ian McKellen has been telling anybody who will listen that he is tired of London, London theatres and London audiences...



THEATRE

Nina; and the presence of the excellent Clare Higgins in Kelly's company ensures that this is still somewhat the case...

she neglects, and is artlessly delighted by their seeming reconciliation at the end. Although he cuts a cooler, more intellectual figure than is customary, you don't doubt that Will Keen's Kostia is obsessed with Nina...

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sprightly old dear

AS LONG as muffins and cucumber sandwiches are scoffed in the shires, Oscar Wilde's 103-year-old classic The Importance of Being Earnest will stalk our stages like an eccentric, elderly matron...

like a Victorian sofa and bristling with contempt, Liza Goddard's fierce Bracknell advances on Ernest as if she were going to dismember him for daring to propose to her daughter, Gwendolen...

of lechery in her voice when she declares to the venerable Reverend Chasuble that ripeness can be trusted. Meanwhile, Robin Lermitt's Ernest slopes gloomily from one piece of furniture to another as if this ritual might somehow help to change his name...

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

CLIVE DAVIS

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merril Hargie

LONDON BORIS GODUNOV: Francesca Zambello directs a new production for the ENO of Mussorgsky's epic portrait of the tyrant whose guilt caused by past misdeeds plunges him into insanity...

ELSEWHERE BATH: A visit by the Nash Ensemble to the Mozartfest offers a colourful musical mixture of Mozart, Hummel, Schumann and Brahms...

ELSEWHERE BIRMINGHAM: Pavo Jandi conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Dvorak's Cello Concerto, performed by the soloist Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk...

ELSEWHERE POOLE: Central to this evening's concert by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra conducted by Adam Fletcher is Mendelssohn's First Violin Concerto...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST: Touring production with Lisa Goddard as Lady Bracknell and Dora Bryan as Miss Prism. Rehearsed (0181-640 0088)
MUCH ADO ABOUT EVERYTHING: Jacobson's new one-man show brings a sharp eye and a cutting tongue to the current scene. See review, p.17.
SIBIRIO MARCHELLO: The man with the thousand faces of paper: light-rig transformations of the famous and infamous. See review, p.17.
GUIDING STAR: Jonathan Harvey's Hitchcockian aftermath play comes to the National. See review, p.17.
LOWE UPON THE THRONE: The National Theatre's Brent takes us through the courtship of Chas and DI.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

- ANTZ (PG): Neorealism and indie himself a new hero: ingenious computer-generated ant, mutated to the voice of Woody Allen, Sharon Stone and Sylvester Stallone.
GIRLS TOWN (15): High-school teenagers develop girl power. Awful and predictable independent film, with Lori Taylor, Director, Jim McKay.
MY NAME IS JOE (15): Reformed Glasgow alcoholic begins an awkward romance with a healthcare worker, inspired by a true story. Directed by John Lynch, with Peter Mullan and Louise Goffigan.
THE PLAYERS CLUB (18): Lively but disaffected tale of a single mother who gets in trouble working as a stripper. With Lisa Ray, William and directed by rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube.
SHAKE UP (15): Nicolas Cage's corrupt homicide cop is faced with a political assassination. Absurd thriller with lots of technical movie-craze from director Brian De Palma.

ART GALLERIES

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THEATRES

Grid of theatre listings including Apollo Victoria, Lyric Theatre, and various other venues with show titles and contact information.

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Large vertical advertisement for 'Beanfeast' and 'Zulu rhythm' featuring a portrait of a man and promotional text.

Making the waves

FILM: Sweden's Stellan Skarsgård is on course for international stardom. Carol Allen met him

Although he has been an actor for more than 30 years, Stellan Skarsgård made audiences in his country sit up and take notice two years ago when he played Emily Watson's paralysed husband in the Cannes Grand Prix winner *Breaking the Waves*. "It was extremely claustrophobic," the Swedish actor remembers.

"Usually I don't sit still for five minutes when I'm filming. I pace back and forth on the set all the day but there I was strapped into a bed and it was terrible." This week Skarsgård suffers from a different on-screen disability as a detective on the trail of a murderer in the Norwegian director Erik Skoldbjærg's debut feature *Insomnia*. Although ostensibly a murder mystery, the film is really a character study of a man whose inner demons are brought to light in the Arctic summer of the land of the midnight sun.

"He's already on his way to breakdown when he comes there," explains Skarsgård. "The continual bright light is partly an image of what's going on inside him and also a trigger for his imbalance. Because he can't sleep, it makes him more vulnerable and breaks him down faster. He's trying desperately to stay in control, to protect his facade of being the perfect cop. What attracted me to the role was that

'I'm definitely not a pin-up. I don't have the body'

everything was going on inside him and he was not letting anything out. He's like a pressure cooker."

While Skarsgård did not himself suffer from insomnia, he did find working in 24-hour daylight an unsettling experience. "It creates a certain kind of confusion. You rarely get sleep but you do get tired and your body clock gets totally mixed up. My kids were out playing at two o'clock in the morning." The film was shot in Skoldbjærg's home town of Tromsø which, despite the romantic image of sunlight on snow implicit in the "land of the midnight sun" tag, comes over as a desolate and brutally industrialised part of the world.

"Erik's not very romantic about his home town," says Skarsgård. "But the bleakness and ugliness that he shows in the film suit the story very well." Although the film is made in Norwegian, Skarsgård's character is Swedish and he speaks his own language. "The three languages, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian, are basically the same. There are some words that are different and the pronunciation is very different but we can understand each other."

Skarsgård has appeared in a dozen or more Swedish films. Some of them, such as Sven Nykvist's *The Ox* and Ake Sandgren's *The Sling-shot*, have been widely praised outside his own country. But



Busy Swede: with the Norwegian mystery *Insomnia* out this week, and the Hollywood thriller *Ronin* released next week, *Breaking the Waves* star Stellan Skarsgård is going global

In the past few years he has been seen increasingly in English-speaking roles and, in a similar way to fellow Swede Max von Sydow some 25 years ago, Skarsgård now seems on course for international screen fame.

As well as *Breaking the Waves*, he was recently seen as the abolitionist Lewis Tappan in Spielberg's slave drama *Amistad* and the envious mathematics professor in *Good Will Hunting*. He was also Denis Quaid's sidekick in the Bosnian war drama *Savior* and the lascivious German businessman in Hanif Kurei-

shi's *My Son the Fanatic*. Next week he opens here in John Frankenheimer's action thriller *Ronin*, in which he, Robert De Niro and Jean Reno are part of an international team of espionage mercenaries made redundant by the end of the Cold War, who are hired to steal a mysterious briefcase. In contrast to the internalised action of *Insomnia*, *Ronin* is virtually non-stop external action, with spectacular car chases all over France.

"Action films are fun and quite refreshing if you don't do them all the time, but it's a different technique," Skarsgård

explains. "The scenes are never about the characters. You have to try to squeeze some character into a scene which is really about forwarding the plot and give the audience the feeling that he has other dimensions even if he's only showing one."

For the character he plays in *Ronin*, who is, he says, "totally mysterious and never explained, I made up this enormous back story which actually makes him in his eyes a good guy, even though that doesn't show in the movie."

There is more action for Skarsgård in *The Deep Blue Sea*, a film he made recently in Mexico. "I play shark food," he says dryly. "I get eaten about an hour into the film. The story is about scientists on a research platform out at sea, who are experimenting with genetic tampering on sharks to enhance the size of their brains, which they think will provide a cure for Alzheimer's. But the experiments make the sharks get smarter. I'm the first scientist to be eaten."

Skarsgård started acting as a child and at 16 starred in a popular Swedish television se-

ries. He then joined the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, where he stayed for 16 years. "I learnt my craft by carrying spears, going in and out in different wigs and false beards, and by emulating or rather stealing from older and more talented actors. But I made sure that I stole from a variety of actors so that no one could trace the theft."

Skarsgård is now a young-looking 47, tall, with slightly receding fair hair and warm blue eyes, sometimes half hidden behind scholarly, wide-rimmed spectacles. He has been happily married for 24

years and has six children ranging in age from 22 to two and a half, but he also has the sort of magnetism which turns female heads when he walks into the room. It's a power he modestly denies. "I can't see myself in that light. I'm definitely not a pin-up. I don't have the body for it."

As far as the possibility of international stardom is concerned, Skarsgård is laid-back to say the least. "I try to make the movies I enjoy most. I don't want to be a star; I want to remain an actor."

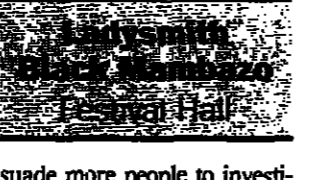
POP: World music's exuberant chart-topping superstars come to London; one of Nashville's finest comes of age; and a Seventies icon starts to show hers

Beanfeast for Zulu rhythms

Monday was world music night on the South Bank with the centre's three concert halls offering a mouth-watering choice of Virginia Rodrigues from Brazil, Orchestre National de Barbes from north Africa, and South Africa's unlikely chart toppers, Ladysmith Black Mambazo. I opted for the latter and if it was frustrating that such fine concerts should clash, it was at least gratifying that roots music, still regarded as a "minority" interest, can sell out all three venues on the same evening.

Ladysmith have had a remarkable 12 months and are now enjoying the greatest commercial success of their career. Although the Zulu troupe was formed 30 years ago, they only emerged on to a world stage when Paul Simon invited them to appear on his *Graceland* album in 1985. Last year their a cappella voices featured in the Heinz baked beans television commercial and the exposure resulted in a Top 20 single with *Inkanyiso Nezazi*. Last month they released *The Star and the Wise-man*, a compilation of their best recordings from the past dozen years. The album swiftly went platinum, with only Phil Collins keeping their unaccompanied tribal harmonies from the No. 1 spot.

As a result this was not your regular world-music audience but a far wider cross-section of the record-buying public. Most had clearly not heard of Busi Mhlongo, who warmed them up with a dose of Zulu funk which will hopefully per-



Ladysmith Black Mambazo (right) will persuade more people to investigate their excellent new album, *Urbanculo*. But they cheered wildly as the ten-strong Ladysmith ran on stage, led by Joseph Shabalala, and began in full-on gospel mode with *King of Kings*.

Two further numbers on the theme of peace, love and understanding caused a few to fidget but Shabalala knew exactly how to pace the show and launched into *Abadala*, an amusing song about the generation gap. They followed with *Hello My Baby*, a slice of 1950s doo-wop South African style. Shabalala's soft voice off-set against the deeper tones of the rest of the troupe and the percussion provided by clicking tongues and other inventive vocal effects.

The limitations of an all-vocal group were easily surmounted by the sheer exuberance of their show but for the woman behind me it was too much of a good thing. "Why can't they stop grinning and waving just for one song?" she complained. She was a lone voice and when the audience recognised *Inkanyiso Nezazi* from the Heinz advert they raised the roof before *Homeless*, the song Shabalala wrote for Simon, proved a fitting finale to an uplifting evening.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

The grey's showing

The most glamorous and commercially successful group to emerge from New York's late-Seventies rock scene, Blondie mixed punk attitude with pop sensibility, brought disco and rap to mainstream attention, then dissolved in illness and acrimony in 1982. On Monday night, fielding four original members and two new recruits, the band's first reunion tour for more than 15 years kicked off at Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Alas, they have not grown old gracefully.

At 53, singer Deborah Harry is two years younger than Mick Jagger and six behind Tina Turner. Her glacial beauty and wozzily sensual voice have both diminished, but only slightly. Thus it was hardly a question of age which marred her performance on Monday, more one of dignity. During Blondie's prime, Harry seemed aloof and indestructible, a post-feminist bridge between Marilyn Monroe and Madonna. By now she ought to be the Catherine Deneuve of pop, iconic and untouchable. But in Wolverhampton she behaved more like Jennifer Saunders in *Absolutely Fabulous*, romping clumsily across the stage, delivering ever more eccentric shrieks and bizarre facial expressions.

In fairness, veteran Blondie fans could scarcely have wished for a more glittering set. Aside from a few anodyne tasters for the band's new album, *No Exit*, scheduled for release early next year, every song was a former chart hit or much-loved album track. From the saccharine sighs of *Sunday Girl* to the futuristic

Blondie Wolverhampton

melodrama of *Atomic*, this show was a persuasive reminder that Blondie were once a pop singles band par excellence. Sadly, it also highlighted how passionless and pedestrian these archive gems can sound in the drearily prosaic context of a live show.

Perhaps the chief problem is that Blondie were always more of a studio creation than an orthodox rock group. They were as much Pop Art as pop, a highly stylised and wilfully synthetic product whose impressive run of hit singles in the late Seventies owed a heavy debt to British bubblegum pop producer Mike Chapman. Inevitably, strip-

ped of its studio sheen, much of their set created and wheezed where once it would have sparkled and soared. But Harry did the songs few favours either. Having recently carved a second career as a jazz singer, she introduced some shrill scat-rap improvisations into the litting reggae serenade *The Tide Is High* which were simply embarrassing. She finally won the crowd over during the final encore of *Heart Of Glass*, a million-selling chart-topper back in 1979, but even this was more a case of warm nostalgia than mass hysteria. It was unfair to declare Blondie's reunion tour a disaster on the evidence of this shaky opening night, but it certainly trashed a few fond memories.

STEPHEN DALTON

Girl from the wild country

Reviewing the *New American Music* show at the Albert Hall in 1995, I described one of its stars, Trisha Yearwood, as perhaps Nashville's best-kept international secret. Despite already standing tall in country music's winners' circle, she was a specialist taste here. So it was a joy on Yearwood's latest return to see that the secret is out.

Spirits were first warmed on Sunday evening by Alison Moorer, whose rich and sensual tones were heard on *A Soft Place To Fall* in the Robert Redford movie *The Horse Whisperer*. That and others from her *Alabama Song* album made an inviting entrée.

Yearwood, firing up the band for an opening *Perfect Love*, was soon reminding with customary humility about her first British performance at the Shaw Theatre in 1993, when she carried the day despite laryngitis and nerves. Five years and several million record sales later, she slips

Trisha Yearwood

her thigh with a confidence befitting the Country Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year for this year and last.

Breaking the chains of the 35-minute warm-up she has performed on Garth Brooks' record-breaking tour — a role she resumes in Belfast tonight — Yearwood took her *Songbook* compilation as the basis of this set, freely daubing it with extra colour from the current *Where Your Road Leads*. We were soon remind-

ed of an interpretative sensitivity that recalls a time when premium voices-looked long and hard for material worthy of their imprimatur.

Hugh Prestwood's *The Song Remembers When* and Alice Randall and Matraca Berg's *XXX's and OOO's* were among those thus endorsed, and Yearwood's artistry was further emphasised by her spontaneous eulogising about that treasured songbook. Another Berg co-composition, *The Wrong Side of Memphis*, was given *rookie* licks via a new arrangement by Yearwood's husband, Robert Reynolds of the Mavericks.

Diane Warren's ubiquitous *How Do I Live*, with which Yearwood had the country hit while LeAnn Rimes was making the popular mint, had the seal of maturity to it, but the best was saved almost for last with the sublime Gretchen Peters composition *On a Bus to St. Cloud*.

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

KIERAN O'BRIEN

Age: "You can say 'early twenties.' Actually, he's 24."
 Profession: Actor.
 Why so coy about his age? "It's not vanity, it's just that my age is not relevant to the work I'm doing."
 Virginia territory I: Already something of a TV veteran, his second stage role, and National Theatre debut, comes as Laurence, the 17-year-old "desperate to lose his virginity" in Jonathan Harvey's new play *Guiding Star*, which opens at the Cottesloe tonight after a successful run at the Liverpool Everyman.
 Research and responsibility: Laurence's father, Terry, remains traumatised by his and his sons' experiences at the Hillsborough disaster, and although *Guiding Star* is "definitely not just about Hillsborough", O'Brien read the Taylor report and other relevant material. "Everybody in Liverpool has a connection to that tragedy, so it would have been terrible for me to have come to the city and done a play dealing with Hillsborough without really knowing the subject."
 Virgin territory II: He will be in cinemas next February as Alex, "a loud show-off" who is determined to relieve a naive heroine of her virginity in *Virtual Sexuality*, a campus comedy drama.
 Child star: Growing up in Manchester, his life changed at the age of nine. "I met an agent who said 'Come and have your picture taken' and two weeks later I was on a film set as an extra. It was that simple... I had no ambition to become an actor but immediately realised that I just loved being on set."
 Formal tuition — who needs it? "I don't think drama school would really have been for me. I've spent so long working with really good professionals — what better training could you have than that?"
 Work ethic: "If the material's good, I'd happily be on set 365 days a year."
DANIEL ROSENTHAL

EN O

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Lucy Carroll as Rosina / Photo: © Matthew Egglestone/Clarke

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ARCHITECTURE

A marvel in Manchester

ARTS

MUSIC

LSO's superb Stravinsky

Exchange reborn in blaze of glory

Two years after the bomb, Manchester's magnificent theatre has been restored and transformed. **Marcus Binney reports**

On November 30 Manchester will have the most fabulous modern theatre in Britain. Ravishing colour and light will enliven not just the auditorium but every part of the soaring 125ft-high classical hall in which the Royal Exchange Theatre stands.

By day, light will flood in abundance through three huge domes in the roof, bathing darker areas in an ethereal glow even on a dull day. By night, special plasma lights will inaugurate a whole new era in the illumination of both modern and historic buildings.

Of course, the theatre was a sensation when it opened in 1976, a £12 million moon-landing craft standing futuristically in Manchester's magnificent Edwardian Cotton Exchange. Then, and for the next 20 years, what struck was the contrast between the gleaming white steel of the theatre module (as it was called) and the tobacco dark colonnades and arches above.

Manchester's Cotton Exchange, which closed in 1968, was grander by far than London's Stock Exchange. A vastly enlarged exchange was completed in 1874, and then doubled in size between 1914 and 1922 (though the earlier half was destroyed by bombs in 1940). Its colonnades and arches are on the scale of ancient Roman baths, its perspectives redolent of opulent 18th-century stage designs.

Now, after a £14 million refit, old and new don't contrast but work in harmony. The hall is subtle, even mysterious, in its colours: the module (and the dome above) brilliant in palest cream, blue and saffron.

The impetus came from the IRA bomb which devastated Manchester on June 15, 1996. Amazingly, though the three Edwardian domes rose from their footings and every pane of glass cascaded to the ground, the glass-enclosed theatre was undamaged. As Axel Burrough, of the architects Levitt Bernstein, explains: "For acoustic reasons, the module sits on industrial shock absorbers which took the force of the blast."

The idea of a theatre in the round had come from the stage designer Richard Negri. Brahm Murray,

the theatre director who was also part of the original team, explains: "Richard rejected the standard proscenium arch as a Roman aberration. For him the great ages of theatre were in Ancient Greek and Elizabethan times, when the actors were right out in front and little or no scenery was used."

They carried out an experimental season in a tented structure within the Exchange before commissioning Levitt Bernstein to build a permanent theatre in the round. "The floor was not strong enough to take the weight of 700 people and 100 tons of steel," Burrough explains. "So we supported the auditorium from two big bridge trusses set into the massive pillars holding up the dome."

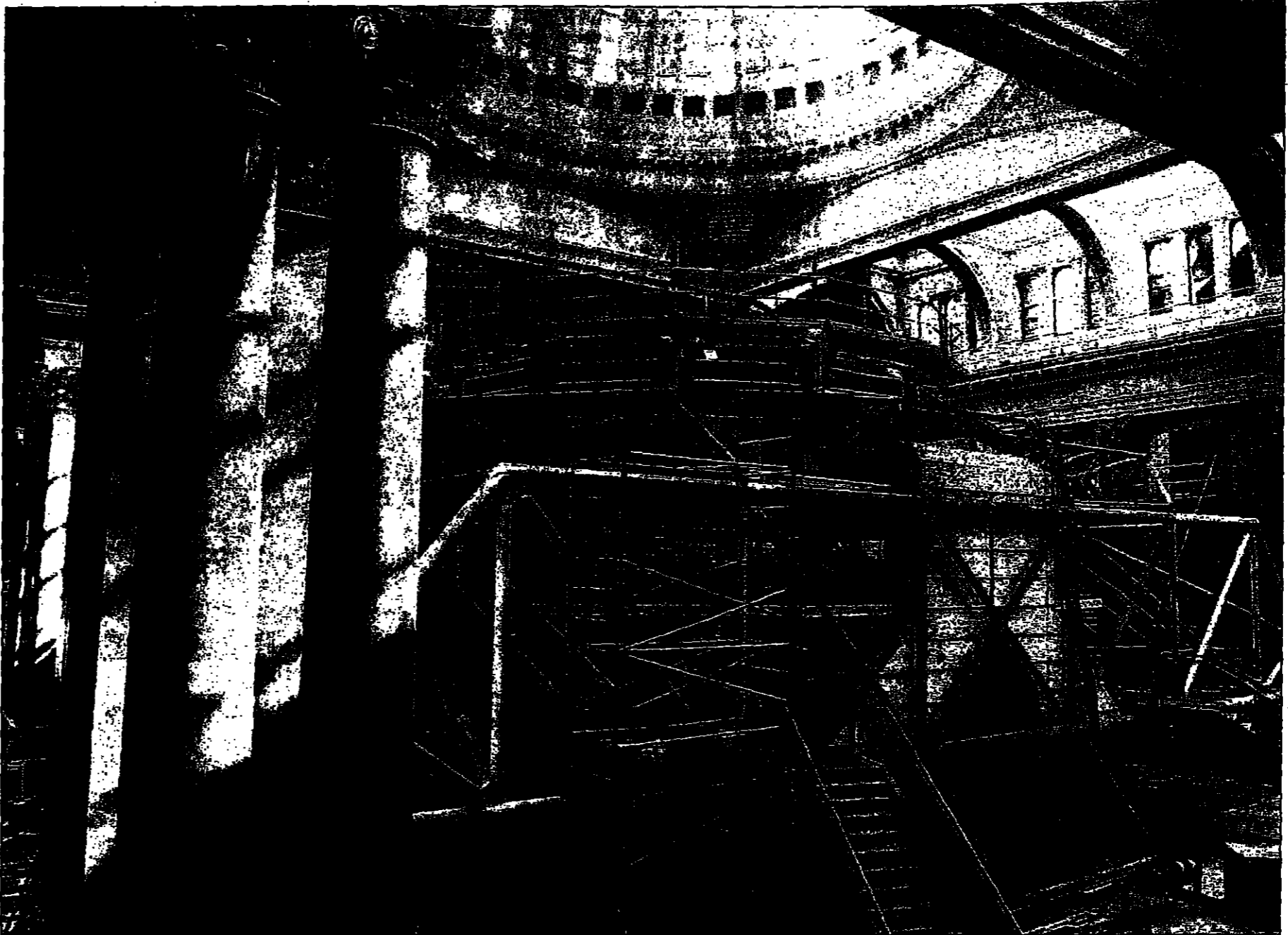
The module is a cradle of tubular steel-work, using technology borrowed from contemporary oil rigs. It looks symmetrical but in fact it is seven-sided within, creating fiendish geometric complexities which wore out the two Sincal calculators that Burrough used.

Why the steel and the complexity? The answer is that Negri and his colleagues had rejected the idea of an opaque black box standing in the Exchange. "They wanted the auditorium to feel part of the huge space around, with glass walls and a roof that opened to mix two different acoustics," says Malcolm Brown, another member of the architectural team.

Prompted by the lottery, plans had been drawn up to refit the theatre even before the bomb, and heroically the company reopened in Upper Canal Market within weeks of the explosion. "This gave us the clue," Murray says. "People started saying: 'We like this, do we need to go back to the Exchange?' Suddenly we realised it had not been welcoming enough. The restored theatre had to be a wow the moment you saw it from the street."

Every time the architects came with plans the reaction was "yes we like it, but go further". The result is as inspiring a marriage of old and new as can be imagined. Bomb damage to the plaster ceilings has been meticulously repaired. Highly polished columns gleam as in a Baroque church. But beyond this

there has been no slavish attempt to recreate historic paint schemes. Rather, ravishing colour has been achieved by brilliant collaboration between the architects and the stained-glass artist Amber Hiscock, working in two different tonal ranges that sensorially complement each other. Negri's original concept was of a blue heaven over a warm earth below (parvly to disguise the scrubby state of the great hall). But the coloured glass in the domes had quickly faded. Now it has been replaced in an intense



Brilliant stained-glass windows and state-of-the-art plasma lighting create the remarkable wash of colour inside the newly restored Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester

blue which at midday magically transforms colours below, turning saffron yellow to salmon pink.

The walls are picked out in a series of soft, almost sorbet colours. The stained glass, by contrast, is intensely fresh and bright. The 30 rooflights and 21 clerestory windows are backlit so they glow by night as well as day. "I wanted to create a celebratory atmosphere, with the feel of a theatre," Hiscock explains. "So I filled my studio with frosties as I did the watercolour designs." These provided the palette

of vivid yellows, pinks and reds. The result are crisper and brighter than the smartest modern scarf you could buy in Florence.

But the biggest sensation will be the plasma lights installed just before opening (each costing £1,500 and lasting 50,000 hours). Colin Hamilton, of the consultants Max Fordham, explains: "They consist of a one-inch sphere of glass with sulphur inside. You use a magnetron to bombard them like a microwave and they generate light as intense as the sun." It could blind

you, so reflectors are used, beaming each light down as a small pool of light — like a spotlight.

The scheme also involves clearing the hall floor of makeshift stalls. New accommodation has been created in box structures within colonnades. Thanks to soft lighting, these Portakabin lookalikes melt into the grand architecture.

The biggest practical change, however, will be the petals in the roof that open to allow scenery to be flown for the first time. With the aid of blackouts and sudden spots,

objects and even people can appear miraculously on stage, or make dramatic entrances from above. In next February's *Peer Gynt* the petals will open up to reveal a shooting star crossing the hall. So far, Negri's theatre in the round has not produced the progeny that might be expected. But now this Manchester marvel should draw visitors from the four corners of the globe.

● The Royal Exchange Theatre (0161-333 9833) reopens on Nov 30 with Stanley Houghston's celebration of Manchester life, *Puddle Wakes*

VISUAL ART: Bridget Riley has put her career on show, writes Isabel Carlisle

Four decades of a life lived in the abstract

The exhibition of Bridget Riley's work at the Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal charts all four decades of the career of one of the most outstanding artists of postwar Britain. Selected by Riley herself, the works, more than 40 of them, are also largely drawn from her own collection. With a surprising symmetry, the exhibition takes us from the first black and white abstract work of the early 1960s, through a growing confidence and then virtuosity with colour, to working drawings and sketches for the latest work seen in a public gallery exhibition: the black and white *Composition with Circles* which took up a whole wall in the Berne Kunsthalle last spring.

A conversation with Riley is, like her art, exhilarating and precise. Her heroes of abstraction are Mondrian, Pollock and Klee, but a visit to her West London studio and home, where all the floors and walls are painted a thick, rich white, most closely evokes the almost monastic dedication of Mondrian to his art.

Each floor of the tall Notting Hill house has a working area, either for painting or writing. Space is necessary because Riley uses assistants to carry out her ideas and paint both the full-scale studies and the final canvases, first in acrylic and then, over the top, in oils. She has used assistants in her studio from the very beginning of her career, as Renaissance artists did. Unlike the Renaissance artists her own hand is nowhere visible in the finished work, but she is quick to deny that this means detachment from her art. "Holding myself at a certain distance enables me to be more engaged, not less. It seems to me that it is in mak-

ing the decisions — rejecting and accepting, altering and revising — that an artist's real personality comes through."

Riley was in her late twenties when, in 1960, she produced the first black and white work in a style many people believe to be quintessentially Riley. "Kiss was preceded by a completely black painting which had failed," she recalls. "I tried to find out why I was so dissatisfied with it, and thinking back to what I had discovered in copying Seurat I realised there was no opposition within this black painting."

"So in the next painting I added white and put a straight line against a curve. Where they almost touch there is a tiny visual flash which suggested the title. From that time on I pitched my work on contrast."

Critics dubbed the early work Op Art and Riley quickly became an unwilling star. In 1965 she had simultaneous shows in New York at the Museum of Modern Art and a commercial gallery (sold out before the opening night). What was it like to be a young artist in the 1960s? "We didn't realise what an exceptional period that was because it seemed quite rational, and even normal, for art in all its forms to be seen to be playing a central role in society. We thought the burst of creative energy was a beginning, but it turned out to be the end of a flowering of art which had begun in the late 1940s."

Are there any parallels between the ferment of creativity then and now? "A huge change has taken place. All the edges between the arts have become blurred and indistinct. In the short term this may seem advantageous, but I can't help feeling that in the long run it will present great



"Abstract art is at a very early stage," Bridget Riley says

difficulties. One of the most difficult things facing young artists today is the pressure of commercialism. It must be very hard to resist because commercial values now carry a sort of cultural sanction. At a point in time where the art scene is so fragmented that there appears to be no clear through line, Riley can be seen as a champion of abstraction, that most emphatic expression of Modernism. "The emergence of abstract art has placed it in a unique position," she says. "It is clearly at a very early stage in its development, and as such it is very much to do with discovery, with discovering its parameters, its forms and its language."

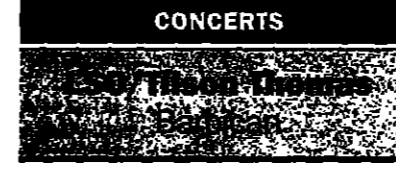
Riley's own abstraction builds on the sensations encountered in the natural world, which makes the Lake District an appropriate setting

Beautifully heard and not seen

There were doubtless compelling reasons for the London Symphony Orchestra to change the programme of the second concert in its Stravinsky Stage Music series — the announced *Oedipus Rex* was replaced by *Pulcinella* — but it might have been a little less secretive about it. Those who had already purchased tickets were told, but there was a certain amount of unrest among on-the-night punters, who had the news broken to them at the box office.

But I imagine there were few complaints afterwards. Maybe contrary to expectation, Michael Tilson Thomas underlined Stravinsky's affection for Pergolesi — or whoever's — original tunes rather than the wit and ebullience with which he adapted them. Not that we were short-changed on rumbustiousness — how could we be with the LSO's virtuoso brass soloists? — but this was a lyrical, warm-hearted, hugely affectionate reading.

And, given complete, it was a showcase for some beautiful singing, from the vel-



CONCERTS

very-toned Ruby Philogene, from a David Wilson-Johnson matching the brass in the young US tenor Kenneth Tarver. An LSO discovery plainly set on an important career. His warm, gentle, easy sound and fine musicianship should be heard to great advantage when (if), as promised, he sings Mozart and Rossini at Covent Garden in 2001. *Pulcinella* was the main course. *Pulcinella* having been a not inapt *hors d'oeuvre*. Quite apart from the shared commedia dell'arte provenance, given Stravinsky's relationship with the past and with other people's music, precisely what is the balance between mockery and affection in

his use of Lanner's exquisite little *Ländler*? There is certainly no mockery in his handling of the tranche of Russian folk tunes woven into the score. This is dance music that has long transcended its original setting. Pokine's choreography and even Nijinsky's performance — Tchaikovsky and Petipa remain much more evenly matched. There are countless advantages in hearing it better played — every department of the LSO on scintillating form — than you will in any opera house: when you see the players you listen in a different way, to the cellos in their first vertiginous entry, to the whole string section sawing away in perfect unison up on the bridge, or such effects as low harp in duet with pianissimo tambourine, the sort of detail you miss in a stage performance. The long, long silence at the end proved that this superb performance had a valid dramatic power all its own.

RODNEY MILNES

Solidly fuelled

For all its popularity, Si-belius's Second Symphony confounds at every turn. No sooner are we lulled by warm, caressing strings at the start than angular winds playing wide-spaced intervals jolt the listener. From then on each beginning proves fragmentary, each question answered by a contradiction. And yet the motifs are all part of the same story, but landed across such wide spaces that there is a danger the music will burn itself out in mid-air. Presented as a motelled work can be such as an intimate kaleidoscope, or a surging torrent of music where wide arcs subsume detail. For this performance, Neeme Järvi did neither. The overwhelming sense was of warmth and solidity. He didn't lean on the cadences of the first movement, but ploughed a steady course. In the dark rhapsodies of the Andante, the Philhar-

Vulgar pictures

The next time Sakari Oramo conducts Stokowski's version of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* he should do the unfortunate composer the favour of having the item attributed to "Leopold Stokowski after Mussorgsky". Stokowski not only omits several movements from Mussorgsky's piano score but also makes cuts within the movements and, worse still, expands them. He betrays the quite specific pictorial intentions of the original by piling on sounds, colours and orchestral tricks that have relevance to nothing but his own vulgarity. One of his few good ideas, the tremolando strings applied to the main theme in an eerie passage associated with the Catacombs, is ruined by his failure to resist applying similar effects to the same material on two earlier occasions. The one useful purpose Stokowski served, as the final

item in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concerts in Birmingham and Liverpool last week, was as a witness for the defence of Oramo's compatriot and conductor-composer colleague Esa-Pekka Salonen. If anyone in Symphony Hall or the Philharmonic Hall thought that Salonen's *LA Variations* at the beginning of the programme was an overindulgent Hollywood spectacular, they hadn't heard anything yet. At least it is true to itself, and as the CBSO so convincingly demonstrated, it is a brilliant exercise in orchestration. Mixed feelings were left too by Richard Stoltzman's contribution to the concert as soloist in the works on either side of the interval. Listening to him in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, in a performance that was effortlessly fluent but not always clearly articulated and stylish only in the superficial areas of linear decoration, one couldn't help wondering what he was doing there. In Debussy's First Rhapsody one had the answer. Here Stoltzman's ability to breathe his way into a note, his subtlety and flexibility in phrasing and colouring were precisely those qualities required by what must be the most poetically inspired competition piece ever written. GERALD LARNER

مكتبة من الأصيل



glory

perb Stravinsky

MUSIC

NOVEMBER 11 1998

Court of Appeal

Prisoner's telephone call was recorded

Regina v Owen
Regina v Stephen
Before Lord Justice Buxton,
Mr Justice Bristow and Judge
Tucker, QC
[Judgment November 6]

The prohibition in section 9(1) of the interception of Communications Act 1985 against questioning officers had reasonable grounds for believing that the person to whom the communication was sent consented to its being intercepted was absolute and not linked to the nature of the case.

That principle, therefore, applied to the issue of processing official operations from exposure in fact arose and it was the prosecutor's case that the fact and method of interception had been made clear to the accused through-out.

It was not therefore open to the defence to question whether or not the interceptors had reasonable cause to believe that the accused was consenting to the interception: the intercepts were admissible without such further inquiry.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals against conviction by Darren Lee Owen and Kevin Kimberley Stephen in November 1997 at Lewes Crown Court (Judge Richard Haywood and a jury) of robbery, possession of a firearm for a Schedule 1 offence and possessing a prohibited weapon.

Owen was sentenced to a total of seven years imprisonment. Stephen was additionally sentenced to consecutive terms of two years for an offence of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and a further 12 months for attempting to escape lawful custody, making a total in his case of ten years imprisonment.

Section 1 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) ... a person who intentionally intercepts a communication in the course of its transmission by post or by means of a public telecommunication system shall be guilty of an offence...

"(2) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under this section if ... (b) that person has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to whom the communication is sent had consented to the interception."

Section 9 provides: "(1) In any proceedings before any court or tribunal no evidence shall be adduced and no question in cross-examination shall be asked which ... tends to suggest that an offence under section 1 above has been or is to be committed by any of the persons mentioned in subsection (2) below..."

"(2) The persons referred to in subsection (1) above are - (a) any person holding office under the Crown..."

Mr David Lyons, who did not appear below, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellants: Mr Michael Warren for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON, giving the judgment of the court, said that while in custody Stephen had made a telephone call to his wife and had apparently made an admission that he had indeed committed the robbery for which he had been arrested.

The prison authorities had placed notices on the telephones and had issued other material to prisoners telling them that their conversations were liable to be listened to and recorded.

At the trial, counsel for Stephen put the prosecution to proof that the officers who had intercepted his call had reasonable cause to believe that Stephen had consented to the interception. In view of the admission in evidence by the prisoner officer called to deal with the matter that prisoners frequently destroyed the notices, thus raising the possibility that Stephen had used a telephone that did not have a notice. Those issues were addressed on a voir dire.

On appeal, Mr Lyons argued that the *voir dire* should never have taken place, with the corollary that the evidence should have been excluded in any event. That was because in the course of investigating whether the call had indeed been consensual, in the terms of section 1 of the 1985 Act, it was necessary to allege that the prison officers, persons holding office under the Crown in the terms of section 9(2)(a), had made or might have made non-consensual intercepts and thus had committed an offence under section 1.

He said that the *voir dire* was included in the expression "any proceedings" in section 9(1) of the 1985 Act, a view with which their Lordships were minded to agree.

Indeed the argument went further than that. Mr Warren said that the very act of giving evidence about an intercept on the part of an officer of the Crown was tantamount to giving evidence that tended to suggest that he had committed an offence.

That was plainly not right. A statement, without more, that an intercept had taken place did not of itself entail or suggest that the intercept fell into the categories forbidden by section 1.

However, the point about how to deal with contested circumstances in which call intercepts were made had more substance than Mr Lyons' argument that as a matter of general fairness evidence of the intercept simply had to be excluded where the circumstances were challenged because the challenge could not be investigated, obviously had serious implications.

Faced with such difficulties, their Lordships thought that the following basic propositions were relevant: 1 As Lord Mustill said in *R v Preston* [1994] 2 AC 130 the overall objective of the 1985 Act was to place the practice of official interception of telephone communications on a sound statutory basis.

Part of that objective was to enable official activity in intercepting communications to remain confidential. That was the task of section 9. That was also underlined as the objective of section 9 by Lord Justice Steyn in *R v Effik* (1992) 95 Cr App R 427.

2 That section 9 protected, and only protected, official intercepts was reinforced by the limitation of the section 9(2) prohibition of investigation to investigation of people who were or might be involved in such official intercepts.

If one private citizen intercepted another, and then tried to use the material in litigation, there was nothing in the 1985 Act to stop his being cross-examined about the legality of his actions, since he had no legitimate claim to confidentiality.

3 The fact that the 1985 Act prevented some or all telephone intercepts being used in evidence was likely principally to handicap the prosecution, and was the price that governmental authorities had to pay for the immunity conferred by section 9: see Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle in *R v Preston* (1994) 2 AC 130, 144.

4 Whether or not an offence was committed in the course of the interception was irrelevant to the admissibility of the evidence provided by the intercept.

In the present case no issue of protecting official operations from exposure in fact arose. It was the prosecution's positive case to disclose the fact and method of interception which, far from seeking to conceal from the person interviewed, had to be made clear to him throughout.

In those circumstances, it was tempting to say that since this case did not fall within the objective of the 1985 Act, because no embarrassment at least in terms of confidentiality would be caused to the authorities by investigation of the lawfulness of their actions, then section 9 simply did not apply to it.

However, even though that might be the overall objective of the section 9 provisions, no distinction was made in the

Act itself between what might be called embarrassing and non-embarrassing investigations. The prohibition was absolute. There might well be good reason for that, not least that in cases less clear than the present any distinction based on the effect of the questioning, if allowed, might force the court to enter undesirable territory in order to determine that preliminary issue.

Their Lordships therefore were driven back to the conclusion that section 9(2)(a) prevented any investigation in any proceedings of whether, in a non-warrant case, an interception by an officer of the Crown was covered by section 1(2)(b).

That view was in accordance with the ruling in *R v Effik* setting out the forbidden area of inquiry, including whether or not the interceptor had the necessary authority as there described as the defence afforded by section 1(2)(b).

The court was bound to follow that ruling in view of the further ruling in *R v Razooli* (1997) 1 WLR 1029, equally binding, that *R v Effik* was overruled by *R v Preston* (1994) 2 AC 130 only to the extent that it related to warrant intercepts.

The effect in the present case was that it was not open to the defence to question whether or not the interceptors had reasonable cause to believe that Stephen was consenting to the interception.

Therefore the judge, with whom their Lordships sympathised in having to deal with that intractable subject without even the benefit of a full report in *Razooli*, was in the circumstances of the case, and of the arguments that were sought to be put against the admissibility of the intercept, wrong to order a *voir dire* to investigate the existence or otherwise of a section 1(2)(b) reasonable belief on the part of the prison officers.

The intercepts were admissible without further inquiry. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, East Sussex.

Between 1995 and 1996 the plaintiffs paid sums in excess of \$500,000 to the defendant and his company, induced by representations that he would establish trust funds for the benefit of their children's education. Some \$26,000 was paid for university fees but no more.

The plaintiffs alleged they were duped, that the money was used for the defendant's own purposes and they suffered compensation and damages for fraud. The plaintiffs obtained summary judgment of the sum they were awarded by the court in Florida.

The second plaintiff, the legal owner of two properties, had been in a placement for some time. His Lordship urged the Secretary of State for the Department of Health to consult the President of the Family Division before reaching a final view on the terms of any amending regulations. In the meantime the present regulations were intra vires.

Solicitors: Harman & Harman, Canterbury; Treasury Solicitor; Mr Geoffrey Wild, Maidstone.

Court of Appeal

Enforcing judgment of foreign court

Murphy and Another v Sivajothi and Others
Before Lord Justice Evans,
Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick
[Judgment October 30]

A party's submission to the jurisdiction of a foreign court was a submission in respect of that court's jurisdiction in respect of a claim against that party made by his co-defendants in that jurisdiction, and where the claim was connected with the subject matter of the original action.

Accordingly, judgment in the foreign court against the party could be enforced in England if the foreign court was shown to be a court of competent jurisdiction under English conflict of laws rules.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the first defendant, Gnanatheevam Sivajothi, from Mr Mark Strachan, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court, on February 23, 1998, when he ordered, *inter alia*, summary judgment for the plaintiffs, Hallegere Murphy and his wife, Myraetae Murphy, in the sum of US\$928,173.90 plus interest, which they had obtained in judgments in February and July 1997 in the circuit court of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Dade County, Florida.

Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC and Mr John Clargo for the first defendant; Mr Stephen Nicholls for the plaintiffs; the other defendants were not present or represented.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the first plaintiff, a successful doctor who had qualified in India, London and the USA, lived with his wife and two children in Florida. They met the first defendant, who became a frequent visitor to their home, through their involvement with a local Hindu temple in South Florida. Unbeknown to them he had been declared bankrupt in the United Kingdom in 1991.

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one residential and one commercial, on behalf of herself and the first plaintiff, agreed to provide the properties as collateral to the defendant on his request that he needed to raise \$400,000 urgently to finance business commitments.

The plaintiffs signed various documents believing they were some form of loan documents, but in fact the properties were conveyed to one of the defendants' companies and subsequently mortgaged to one, Gordon.

No payments were made to Gordon who foreclosed on the properties claiming against the defendant and his company in the Florida court, the plaintiffs being cited as co-defendants.

A "stipulation for settlement" was agreed between Gordon and the defendant. The plaintiffs issued proceedings to set that aside, and obtained default judgments against the defendant in the Florida court, bringing the present action in England to enforce those judgments.

The sole issue for the present court was, as stated in *Dacey and Morris: The Conflict of Laws* (12th edition, 1993, vol 1, p472, rule 301 - a court of a foreign country outside the United Kingdom has jurisdiction to give a judgment in personam capable of enforcement or recognition "in certain cases, the third case being "if the judgment debtor, being a defendant in the foreign court, submitted to the jurisdiction of that court by voluntarily appearing in the proceedings".

Mr Stewart, while accepting that the settlement was a submission by the defendant to the Florida court's jurisdiction in respect of Gordon's claim, contended that there was no submission in respect of the plaintiffs' cross-claims in Florida.

He relied on a passage in *Dacey and Morris* (at p482) and various passages in American authorities cited there: the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law, Second, Conflict of Laws 2d (1971), revised May 1988, vol 1, sections 26, 33; *Ex parte Indiana Transportation Co* (1917) 244 US 450; and *In re Estate of Einsteck, deceased* (1970) 257 NE 2d 637.

His Lordship said that there was nothing in those authorities to contradict a common law rule to the effect that, a person's submission to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of a claim against him could also be taken as a submission, first, in respect of claims concerning the same subject matter, and second, related claims which might properly be brought against him

under the foreign court's rules of procedure, either by the original plaintiff or by others who were parties to the proceedings at the time he submitted to the jurisdiction. The American authorities supported the existence of such a rule. In England, the underlying principle was that a foreign judgment gave rise to an obligation on the defendant to pay the amount due, such obligation being enforced by the English court: *Adams v Cape Industries plc* [1990] Ch 433.

The rule was not based on reciprocity in any strict sense. Nor did the fact that English courts might assert an extra-territorial jurisdiction mean that they recognised judgments given by a foreign court on a similar extra-territorial basis. But when a defendant submitted to a foreign court's jurisdiction, he could not be heard to say that that court had no jurisdiction to decide issues raised by the proceedings before in which the submission was made.

Accepting that the permitted scope of those issues should not be unfair to the defendant, it was easy to see why different and unrelated claims should not be taken to be within the scope of the submission, but equally it was impossible to say that claims which were directly concerned with the same subject matter should not.

Nor should such claims be excluded because they might properly be made by a party to the proceedings other than the original plaintiff, for example a contribution or indemnity claim by a co-defendant.

Whether a particular claim should be regarded as related in the sense of Order 16, rule 8(1)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court had always to be a question of fact and degree. It might not be enough that its joinder was permitted by the rules, the procedure of the foreign court.

But his Lordship did not see that it could possibly be unfair to the defendant to hold that the claims which resulted in the judgments in favour of the plaintiffs in Florida were related to the claims made against him by Gordon.

Applying even the most rigorous definition of "related claims", the plaintiffs' claims fell within it. They were parties to proceedings in which the defendant had submitted to the jurisdiction of the Florida court.

Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick agreed.

Solicitors: Needleman Trenon & Fergusons.

Child protection regulations are valid

Regina v Secretary for State for Health and Another, Ex parte C (Minors)
Before Mr Justice Scott Baker
[Judgment October 27]

Regulations which did not allow any exercise of discretion by local authorities in placing children with foster parents who had been convicted or cautioned in respect of specified offences were valid, *intra vires* and *ultra vires*.

Mr Justice Scott-Baker so held in the Queen's Bench Division, in dismissing an application for judicial review that regulations 2 and 3 of the Children (Protection from Offenders) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (SI 1997 No 2308), introduced by the Secretary of State for Health, on October 17, 1997, and amending the Children and Young Persons (Adoption Agencies) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1964) and the Children and Young Persons (Foster Placement) Regulations (SI 1991 No 910), were ultra vires.

Two children, now aged six and seven, were previously living with grandparents, who had been approved as foster parents. Care orders had been made in respect of the children by the local council, the intervener in the proceedings.

In July 1996, prior to the coming into force of the 1997 Regulations, Kent County Council became aware of the fact that the paternal grandfather had been convicted, 36 years ago, of unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl aged 15, yet the council and the guardian ad litem nevertheless fully supported the making of care orders being convinced that that was in the best interests of the children.

After the coming into force of the 1997 Regulations the

council were no longer able to allow the children to remain in the grandparents' home under the terms of care orders.

On December 8, 1997 the grandparents applied to Canterbury County Court for a residence order. That application was adjourned pending the outcome of the judicial review.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC, and Mr Stephen Cobb for the children; Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the Secretary of State for Health; Mr Dermot Main Thompson for the intervener, Kent County Council.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that Mr Gordon submitted that the 1997 Regulations did not permit any discretion to be exercised by local authorities in placing children with foster parents. The identical argument was applicable in the case of the Adoption Agencies Regulations. Therefore, he submitted it would be possible in some cases for the best interests of the child to prevail.

He submitted that the decision maker, be it adoption agency or local authority must in every case be left with a discretion and that the Secretary of State for Health had no power by regulations to take it away. Such a step could only be taken by primary legislation by Parliament.

Mr Fleming submitted that in so far as there was a general parliamentary purpose to be extracted from the primary legislation, namely the protection and welfare of children, it was plain that the 1997 Regulations were enacted with the sole intention of furthering that wider purpose: see paragraph 5 of Local Authority Circular (97) 17 *Guidance to the Offenders Regulations*, issued by the Department of Health and in re *R-J (Minors)* (CA October 2, 1998 unreported).

His Lordship said that there could be no doubt that the offenders regulations were directed towards the welfare of children generally. Mr Gordon's argument failed to recognise that the duty to act accordingly to the welfare principle was expressed in the statutes as subsisting in respect of the child in other ways: the duty must be exercised accordingly to the regulations.

A public body did not have free standing function. It could only act according to the terms of the statute or to delegated legislation giving it power to do so: see *Secretary of State for the Home Department v Aspinall* [1999] 1 WLR 1037.

On that basis it was not necessary to go through the Children Act 1989 and the Adoption Act 1976, the welfare principle and the welfare checklist. The 1997 Regulations were not in conflict any of them.

In his Lordship's judgment there was nothing objectionable in secondary legislation specifying matters which disqualified a person from holding a particular post or position: as in this case from taking responsibility for the day to day care of children.

The local authorities' powers and duties in relation to children remained in place and must be exercised to promote and safeguard the best interests and welfare of the children but subject to the limitations imposed by the Offenders Regulations.

It had, in his Lordship's judgment, always been the intention of Parliament that a local authority's discretion should be exercised in the context of, and subject to, the constraints imposed by the regulations made by the secretary of state.

His Lordship concluded that the Offenders Regulations were within the ambit of the enabling statutory words. There was no collision between the regulations and the wider purpose of the 1989 Act and the 1976 Act.

The common thread that ran through the law relating to child care was that those who were charged with making a decision of a child's future should treat that child's welfare as paramount. But decision makers could only operate within the confines of the relevant legislation. Because Parliament had decided that certain offenders presented a risk to children if they were foster or adoptive parents it was entitled to rule them out as a group from fostering or adopting children, and to do so in the form of secondary legislation.

The legislators were entitled to conclude that as a matter of policy that the good of the many should prevail over the detriment of the few. His Lordship could well see that those with convictions for specified offences would ordinarily be disqualified from fostering or adopting, but where the offence occurred long ago or the circumstances were unusual, there might be good reason for supposing that the offenders in question might not be so disqualified from fostering or adopting, but where the offence occurred long ago or the circumstances were unusual, there might be good reason for supposing that the offenders in question might not be so disqualified from fostering or adopting, but where the offence occurred long ago or the circumstances were unusual, there might be good reason for supposing that the offenders in question might not be so disqualified from fostering or adopting.

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If the local authorities and adoption agencies were given a tightly drawn discretion by a phrase such as "save in exceptional circumstances" it would give the local authority an opportunity to avoid doing serious disservice to a number of children particularly those who, as in the present case, had been in a placement for some time.

His Lordship urged the Secretary of State for the Department of Health to consult the President of the Family Division before reaching a final view on the terms of any amending regulations. In the meantime the present regulations were intra vires.

Solicitors: Harman & Harman, Canterbury; Treasury Solicitor; Mr Geoffrey Wild, Maidstone.

Defendant to show honest meaning

Loveless v Earl and Another
Before Lord Justice Hirst,
Lord Justice May and Sir Christopher Slade
[Judgment November 4]

In a defamation case where qualified privilege would otherwise apply and in which the defendant had published words which were held objectively to have a defamatory meaning which the defendant had not honestly held, the plaintiff's plea that malice defeated the privilege would be likely to fail if he intended another meaning which he honestly held.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Loveless v Earl and Capital Counties (Financial Services) Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Douglas Brown on April 18, 1997 striking out defences of justification and qualified privilege under Order 82, rule 3A of the Rules of the Supreme Court, on the ground that the words complained of by the plaintiff, Anthony Loveless, could not bear the meanings pleaded in the defence.

Miss Heather Rogers for the defendants; Mr Justin Rushbrook for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the action had arisen out of the publication of letters to 14 people who were clients of

prospective clients of the financial services company which the plaintiff had employed the plaintiff.

The letters had stated: "As you are aware, although I am obliged to inform you, Anthony Loveless has recently left the company."

"In accordance with the Financial Services Act 1986 only those authorised may advise on investment matters and anyone purporting to offer such services without authorisation could be deemed to commit a criminal offence."

"As a result of information received the company considered it was appropriate to review Mr Loveless's terms of appointment and it was on this basis that his employment with the company was terminated."

The plaintiff alleged that the natural and ordinary meaning of the words was that he had been sacked for purporting to offer investment services without authorisation, a matter which constituted a criminal offence under the Financial Services Act 1986. It was common ground that the plaintiff had not done so.

The defendants contended that the *Lucas-Bar* meaning that the plaintiff had been sacked by reason of his conduct: see *Lucas-Bar v News Group Newspapers Ltd* [1986] 1 WLR 147.

An industrial tribunal had determined that Mr Loveless's departure from the company had neither been a resignation nor a dismissal but a consensual termination.

The tribunal had also decided that some of the matters in the existing particulars of justification were correct by which the plaintiff warranted dismissal.

The defendants wanted to amend their plea of justification to include the meaning that "the plaintiff has so conducted himself as to make the content of his appointment with the second defendant appropriate."

They had submitted a revised plea of justification referring to the adverse decision of the industrial tribunal.

The judge had held that the words were only capable of bearing the plaintiff's meaning and were incapable of bearing the meaning sought by the defendants.

In his Lordship's judgment, the words were capable of bearing the defendant's new *Lucas-Bar* meaning, since paragraph 2 of the letter left open the nature of the information received, thus potentially opening the door to the defendant's *Lucas-Bar* meaning.

The defence of qualified privilege had been pleaded on the conventional basis of common and corresponding interest. It was not unlike the case of an

employer's reference for one of his employees.

The need to protect freedom of communication honestly exercised was reflected in *Fraser v Mirza* (1993 SC 27), in which Lord Keith of Kinkaid referred to the need to consider the motives with which a person made a defamatory publication, which could only be inferred from what he did or said or knew.

Where the words complained of were held objectively to have a defamatory meaning which the defendant had not honestly held, the plaintiff's plea that malice defeated qualified privilege would be likely to fail if the defendant could show that he intended another meaning which he honestly held.

That was the law in his Lordship's judgment, without saying that the defendants' careless formulation in the letter defeated the plea of qualified privilege.

The whole issue of malice would in the end turn on the jury's conclusion as to the defendant's state of mind at the time of publishing the libel.

That was something which could not be determined in preliminary proceedings and the appeal would accordingly be allowed.

Solicitors: Schilling & Lorn & Partners; Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners.

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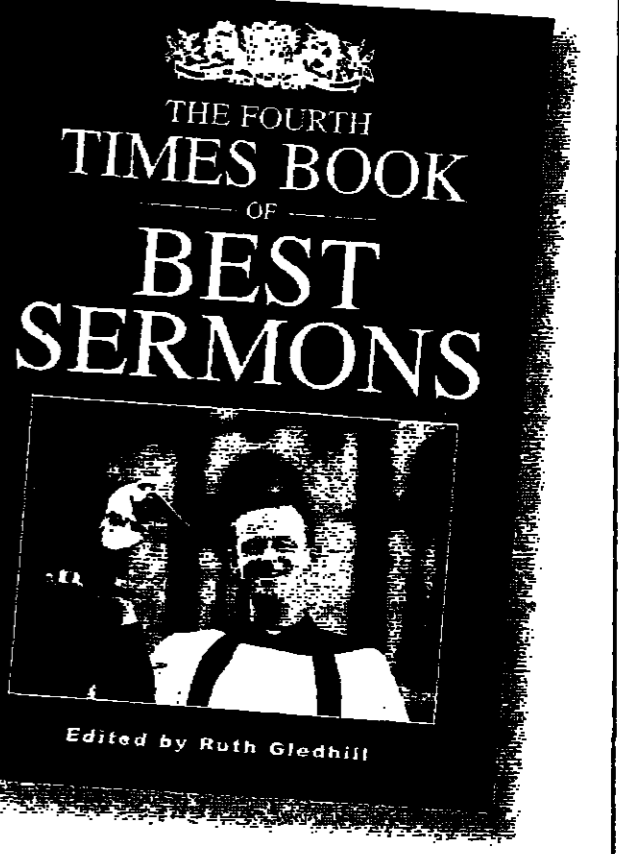
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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

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RACING: GREY'S STYLISH RETURN HELPS TRAINER LAND REASSURING DOUBLE AT NEWBURY

Zafarabad eases Nicholson's concern

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

DAVID NICHOLSON could hardly believe his eyes yesterday as a 20-runner losing streak came to an abrupt and unexpected end with a 27-1 double at Newbury.

"It's a funny old game. It shows what 24 hours can do for you. One moment they can be all wrong, they can't win anything and then you go to a grade one track and this happens," Nicholson said.

The Jackdaws' stable trainer has been at a loss to explain the poor performance by his string and was far from confident about the chances of Zafarabad in the Newbury Autumn Hurdle, the afternoon's feature race, because of fitness worries.

Yet, as the quality field turned for home, Richard Nicholson could be spotted oozing confidence on the 5-2 shot who duly cruised into the lead between the last two flights before being eased down a long way before the line for a three-



Zafarabad leads Flagship Überalles over the last flight on his way to an impressive victory in the Newbury Autumn Hurdle yesterday

length victory from the Paul Nicholls-trained Flagship Überalles.

"I would love to know why my horses are becoming a run, but this horse would be grosser than 90 per cent of them. It is perplexing and I don't know why," Nicholson said.

"On the way here I had a long discussion with Richard [Nicholson], especially given the whip syndrome at the moment, and said that this horse had to have a nice run round and not be hurt. I told him if he got beat, so be it, but he never looked like being beaten."

The runner-up is a half-brother to Viking Flagship, the new-trained Queen Mother Champion Chase winner trained by Nicholson, and was beaten less than a length by Zafarabad at Puncheston in April. "If we were going to get beat by the second horse it was today because looking at them in the paddock, he looked fit and he looked a bit gross."

"You bring this horse here thinking he is short of a run and he bolts up. They all live in the same yard; it is not easy."

Zafarabad has now won five of his six starts over hurdles — the only defeat came when

he was fourth in the Triumph Hurdle — and yesterday's success earned him a 20-1 quote for the Champion Hurdle from William Hill. However, his generation invariably face a tough task as they meet older horses in open competition.

"They are at a great disadvantage when they have won races at three and four, are carrying penalties and meet at level weights with older horses. It is very hard for them," Nicholson said.

The trainer added: "Broadsword was five when he finished second to For Auction in the Champion Hurdle, but it is a hard race for young horses. If he is lucky, though, Zafarabad might well go all the way to Cheltenham. He has a touch of class — he finished fifth to Borgia in the German Derby — and is maturing quite quickly."

An hour later, Flying Gunner completed the transformation in Nicholson's fortunes by staying on strongly in the Head On Newsletter Hurdle to account for Old Rouvel.

Teeton Mill to tackle Hennessy

TEETON MILL, the ante-post favourite for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, was yesterday cleared to tackle the Newbury contest on Saturday fortnight.

Connections have elected to aim for the first long-distance chase of the season, rather than have an early look at the Grand National festival in the Becher Chase at Aintree a week earlier.

Teeton Mill is 11-2 favourite with William Hill for the Hennessy, for which he incurred a 4lb penalty after an impressive victory at Wincanton last Saturday.

Explaining the decision, a spokesman for the owners, The Winning Line, said: "While we hope the handicapper doesn't

overreact, he will never be able to run off this mark in the future. Even with a 4lb penalty he will get in on 10lb."

"Norman Williamson jumped off him on Saturday and said 'Newbury here we come' so who are we to disagree? However, Teeton Mills long-term aim remains the Grand National."

Teeton Mill, trained by Venetia Williams, was making his handicap debut at Wincanton, having previously won five of his six starts in hunter chases.

The betting on the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday produced some lively exchanges yesterday with Mandys Mantino continuing to prove

popular. Coral reacted by cutting Josh Gifford's charge to 6-1 from 7-1, having shortened him from 9-1 yesterday. Mandys Mantino has also been cut to 6-1 from 8-1 by William Hill.

However, Gifford is concerned that Mandys Mantino's stamina may let him down over this two and a half miles. The eight-year-old finished third in the two-mile Arkle Trophy at the course in March and was third again on his reappearance over the same trip at Ascot.

"He didn't quite get it last time, though he did have a lot of weight that day and it was at the end of the season."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newbury
Going: soft (good to soft places)

1.20pm (m) 110yd hurdle 1, KATARINNO (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4 lb); 2, Shergarad (J O'Connell, 6-10 lb); 3, Clarendon (G Pender, 10-3 lb); 4, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 5, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 6, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 7, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 8, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 9, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 10, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 11, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 12, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 13, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 14, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 15, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 16, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 17, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 18, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 19, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 20, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 21, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 22, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 23, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 24, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 25, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 26, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 27, Also Ran (P J Gifford, 10-3 lb); 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RUGBY UNION

Woodward puts his faith in Luger and Corry

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND, veering from doubt to certainty within 24 hours, sprang two surprises in the XV that will start against The Netherlands in the first of their two World Cup qualifying games, at Huddersfield on Saturday.

Injuries that removed Lawrence Dallaglio, David Rees, Tony Underwood and Kyran Bracken from contention left Clive Woodward, the England coach, debating the merits of Luger against Spencer Brown and Tom Beim — both of them members of the tour party to the southern hemisphere — and the Harlequin won through.

Woodward, though, had little doubt about his antecedents: "When I coached the England Under-21 side, Matt Perry, David Rees and Dan were the stand-out players," he said.

Perry and Rees have already leapt into the senior squad, but Luger, 23, whose father, Darko, is from Croatia, has been held back by injury. He broke his arm after moving from Orrell to Harlequins, then severely damaged knee ligaments playing against Auckland Blues early last year; he did not return until December, but the knee troubled him for the rest of the season. However, he is now fully fit and benefiting from Harlequins' upsurge in form: seven tries from nine Allied Dunbar Premiership games are testament to the quality of the fastest player in the England squad.

"I thought there were too many guys ahead of me to get a cap and when I heard I was speechless," Luger, 6ft 1in and 1st 7lb, said. He will be the twelfth player to appear as a wing since Woodward became coach.

Corry, who was capped twice against Argentina last year, will start his first international at home as the form player of the domestic season and ahead of Tony Diprose, who was probably the unlucky man to miss selection. Corry will have four Leicester colleagues alongside him in the pack, Woodward being per-

TEAMS

ENGLAND: M Perry (Bath); A Healey (Leicester); W Gidyczewski (Leicester); P Grayson (Northampton); M Dawson (Northampton); R Coates (Leicester); D Gardner (Leicester); M Johnson (Leicester); G Archer (Northampton); G Clarke (Richmond); M Back (Leicester); M Corry (Leicester); Replacements: R Bracken (Northampton); P de Gier (Bath); M Gati (Bath); R Vain (Scarborough); T Hoadley (Northampton); G Smeaton (Leicester); P Greenwood (Sale); Other World Cup squad members: T Beim (Scarborough); W Green (Wasps); A Diggins (Scarborough); D Greenwood (Scarborough); IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish); J Bishop (London Irish); P Duggan (Galwegians); J Bell (Dunfermline); R Murray (Bath); E Elwood (Galwegians); C McGuinness (St Mary's College); P Clohesy (Trinity College); R Heaslip (Newcastle); P Wallace (Scarborough); J Johns (Scarborough); M O'Keefe (London Irish); M Miller (Trenton College); A Ward (Bathurst); V Costello (St Mary's College); Replacements: C Smith (LTD); R Humphreys (Dunfermline); G Dempsey (Trenton College); D O'Connell (Sale); J Davidson (Coventry); J Fitzgerald (Dunfermline); A Clarke (Dunfermline).

sued that the combination of Neil Back and Corry in the back row would work well, with Ben Clarke taking over from Dallaglio.

Injuries have helped the decision-making process: Dallaglio, the nominated captain, will miss both World Cup games, against the Dutch and Italy, which gives Clarke his opportunity, while, at scrum half, Matt Dawson retains his place from the summer tour because Bracken, his inveterate rival, hurt his back in training on Monday. Dawson will have his club partner with him at half back, Paul Grayson having been preferred to Mike Catt.

Dallaglio sprained a medial ligament against Northampton at the weekend but will hope to have achieved full fitness in time to lead the side against Australia on November 28. "It was an obvious deci-

tion to withdraw this week and we will have to see if things improve," he said. "I'm a quick healer."

Pat Duignan, who was born in Canada and raised in Australia, will make his debut for Ireland in the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia in Dublin on Saturday. Duignan, 26, will partner Jonathan Bell in the centre, with Kevin Maggs, of Bath, reverting to the left wing after appearing in his club position of centre against South Africa during the summer tour.

There are ten survivors from the side beaten 33-0 in Pretoria, including Keith Wood, who is in contractual dispute with the Irish Rugby Football Union. Paddy Johns retains the captaincy and will be joined in the second row by Malcolm O'Kelly, with Jeremy Davidson, the British Isles lock, who joined Castres during the summer, having to be content with a seat among the replacements.

Eric Miller, who has played only four games this season for Ulster and his new club, Terenure College, returns to international rugby after an unhappy 1997-98 season at blind-side flanker. Neither Trevor Brennan, capped in the summer in the back row, nor Alan Quinlan, the Munster flanker, could be considered because of injuries.

Peter Clohesy switches to loose-head prop in what could be a permanent move this season. The replacements include Cianan Scally, who shared in the Irish Schools' unbeaten tour to Australia in 1996.

The promotion to the senior squad of the young scrum half is encouragement to the younger generation to stay at home rather than seek employment in England.

The Rugby Football Union has postponed the appeal against suspension lodged by Richmond on behalf of Scott Quinnell until next week. Quinnell will be shown off today by Llanelli as part of a three-man package (alongside Jason Barrell, a prop from New Zealand, and Salei Finau, the Tonga centre) recruited to the club, is therefore cleared to play for Wales against South Africa on Saturday. The disciplinary hearing will be held on Tuesday.

ward to have been capped. Of the others, Norm Maxwell, the lock, is expected to graduate to full international rugby in the near future, while Greg Feek, the loose-head prop, and Bruce Reihana, the wing, are also considered to be potential future All Blacks.

The Reivers were forced into a late change when Hugh Gilmour — named on the right wing — withdrew with a neck injury. Ally Common is promoted from the replacements with Scott Nichol, of Melrose, coming on to the bench.

EDINBURGH REVERS: S Lang, A Common, S Hastings, A Collins, J Kerr, C Chalmers, H Farley, P Mackay, S Scott, P Wright, D Burns, I Ferguson, A Robertson, I Sinclair, B Remick.

NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: A Cashmore, B Rahuara, N Berryman, D Gibson, G Osborne, T Brown, A Flynn, G Feek, S McFarland, K Mearns, M Newell, D Waller, T Fevold, G Marsh, D Muir.

BARBARIANS: J Thomas (Cardiff and Wales), G Wyatt (Pontypridd), T Walsh (Henley), R Wilson (Galwegians), H Thompson (Northampton), S Taumaloalo (Etowah and Tonga), J Tennant, R Booth (Leeds), D Smith (Wasps), J Sanders, Gloucester, 77, E Byrne (St Mary's College), S Byrne (Blackrock College) and J Barry (Blackrock College).

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Corry, in great form



Luger was pleasantly surprised to be selected. "I thought there were too many guys ahead of me to get a cap," he said

Expedience is name of the game

By ALASDAIR REID

BOASTING a number of players whose facial features suggest closer links with Scandinavia than Polynesia, the New Zealand Maoris squad that arrived in Scotland last week was clearly not picked on the basis of racial parity. Selection for the Maoris, effectively an All Blacks development XV nowadays, has become a matter of expedience rather than ancestry, but the same could be said of the Edinburgh Reivers, their opponents at Mansfield Park, Hawick, tonight.

Conceived as a full-time professional side that would represent players from the lowly standards of club rugby in order to compete in the European Cup, the Reivers' raison d'être suffered a blow on Sunday when they were knocked out of that tournament by Ulster. Yesterday, having lost a host of players to injury and international squad selection, they brought in a number of replacements from the clubs from which they were previously so anxious to distance themselves.

Stephen Scott, the Gala hooker, is the only one in the starting line-up, but Gordon Ross, of Heriot's, Gregor Hayter, of Watsonians, Alan Watt, of Currie, and Jim Hay, of Preston Lodge, have been given seats on the bench. That the latter two are full internationals says much about the bizarre nature of Scottish rugby these days.

So, too, does the fact that Aaron Collins has been named at inside centre by the Reivers. Collins, himself a New Zealander, has been drafted in from Glasgow Caltonians, Scotland's other super-district side, the outfit that gave him a contract this season, but has not yet felt the need to call on his services as a player.

Four points for a try to find league's new game-plan

Battle lines are being drawn up between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading clubs over the latter's plans for the future of the domestic game. Later this month, Francis Baron and Brian Balster, respectively chief executive and chairman of the RFU, will hear four different proposals, the most contentious of which is the franchise option. In order to secure the necessary investment from banks who would underwrite the franchises, the clubs want a five-year moratorium on promotion and relegation to ensure financial stability.



Summers possibly involved in the Hallett case, the clubs think that they have the right to know more than they do. Graeme Cattermole, the chairman of the RFU finance committee, said it was a management board decision and that there is no question of the RFU accounts hiding anything.

this Saturday, spending £2,500 on a 24-seat hospitality suite at Vicarage Road, for the third rugby league international between Great Britain and New Zealand.

Black days The indefatigable Alan Black, the RFU national promotions officer, is hitting the road again. Black is organising a series of seminars in Huddersfield every day next week to coincide with England's World Cup qualifying games. There will be a different topic each day at the McAlpine Stadium, including advice on the lottery, sponsorship, ground maintenance and medical issues.

Irish logic Quote from John Mitchell, Sale's New Zealand-born coach and Clive Woodward's assistant, after his club had beaten the increasingly cosmopolitan London Irish: "It was nice to see the British beating the southern hemisphere," he said.

Beyond Ken Ken O'Connell, the Ireland flanker, who joined Castres in the summer, is taking time to get used to the customs that preclude drinking after a game in France. "Apparently, it is perfectly all right to smoke about 40 cigarettes the day before a match, but drinking is totally taboo. I think I'll have to take up the fags."

Plans for Nigel He may be a multimillionaire and leading shareholder in Saracens, but Nigel Wray is adamant that he pays his own way by hiring a hospitality box at every home game. He is doing so again

How West won West Bridgford, the Nottingham side, are playing in the third round of the NPL Cup on Saturday, even

Wray: box seat though they lost to Lincoln in the first round and could only draw in the second. Lincoln were kicked out after fielding unregistered players in their 13-11 defeat of West Bridgford, who progressed to the third round as the away side after a 9-9 draw against Newark.

Wing wizard Iolo Williams, the former Newtown wing, who has sacrificed his rugby career for bird watching, is tipped to become the new David



Wray: box seat

big brother is watching!

MARK SOUSTER

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT The Yugoslavs were not a major force in the 1998 Junior European Championships, but here one of their players made two thoughtful defensive plays and was rewarded with a game swing.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer East IMPs and Love all. Includes a list of cards for both hands and a contract of 3NT.

Contract: Three No-Trump by South. Lead: ten of clubs. Poljaski as West started off well for the defense by leading the ten of clubs to the queen and king. Declarer crossed to dummy via the queen of hearts and played the four of diamonds to the ten. Poljaski imperceptibly played small, and after considerable thought declarer played the ace of diamonds, then abandoned the suit. He placed the king of diamonds with East, and did not want to run the risk of giving East the lead, and losing four club tricks. Declarer's next move was to cash the top spades and play a third spade. His plan was to throw West in with the queen of spades to collect his

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard ALPARGATA a. With feeling b. A pasta sauce c. A sandal FOSSOR a. A wasp b. A legionary officer c. A lumberjack

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Polgar wins After a relatively quiet year, the world's strongest female player, grandmaster Judit Polgar has burst onto the scene with a splendid victory at the VAM tournament in Holland.

White: Jan Timman Black: Judit Polgar VAM tournament Holland 1998 Nimzo-Indian Defence. Includes a chessboard diagram and a list of moves for the game.

Keene online You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column. Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Bazorig - Reefat, Elista Olympiad, 1998. White is very vulnerable to an invasion by a major piece, as his king is pinned to the back rank. How did Black exploit this? Solution on page 46



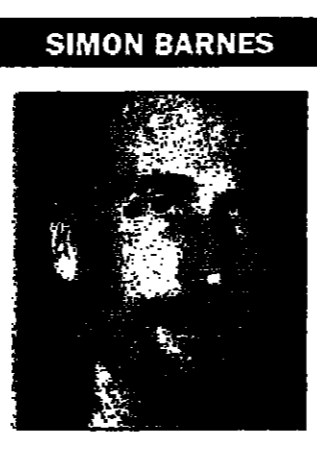
THE TIMES WEDNESDAY... Rising f... The German... seem to... the sick... CRICKET... Impressi... Englan... batter wa... to recor... PONTING POINT

Rising from sickbed to give bowlers the treatment

England cricket in good news shock. Cricket match not lost. The news of Graham Thorpe's heroics has cheered us all up...

that actual illness can be a real and quite specific advantage. There are many batting stories of illness and miraculous scores.

sickness, it was made precisely because of it. History's most famous sick batsman was Eddie Paynter...



Midweek View

1966-67. In extraordinary, more or less unplayable heat, Jones made 210. At first, he lost so much liquid that it bubbled out through the laceholes in his boots.

to be with the boys. He wanted to know if he had reached his hundred.

alienated from a flu bug. In illness, you are truly less than yourself. Odd, then, that some people become more than themselves within its grasp.

The demands of batting seem to suit the sick man

Thorpe got up from his sickbed to play an innings that might just have turned the tour around. Certainly, the team will have a spring in its step and maybe the Australians have stopped laughing for a bit.

Thorpe said that he played "on autopilot" during the crucial middle session of the day, in which he belted 125 runs in an extraordinary counter-attack.

He was ill before the match, but, fearing for his place, didn't tell his captain, Douglas Jardine. England were 216 for six in reply to Australia's 340.

victory. In the second innings, he made the winning hit. A six. Perhaps a still more remarkable

The second day was serious. Jones could not drink, because he could not keep anything down. He kept vomiting out in the middle.

Great tales. There are plenty of stories about athletes overcoming injury. Al Oerter, the American discus thrower, removed his surgical collar to make the throw that won him the third of his four Olympic gold medals.

It is the nature of batting that you seem to stand there to receive the buffets of fortune. Every batsman has moments of feeling like St Sebastian.

Jones woke up in hospital on a saline drip

These are the Olympics, you'd die for them," he said. Bjorn Borg won Wimbledon one year while giving himself injections in the stomach at the change of ends.

Illness adds one more layer of suffering to the sense of personal martyrdom, perhaps a mind-clearing one. Illness rides your brain of essentials like your place and your batting average.

CRICKET

Impressive England batter way to record

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE (final day of tour): England XI drew with South Australia

THERE are many ways of saving a game of cricket, but few can have been as impressive as this. After an undignified three-day tutorial from the state players of South Australia...

day of each game, not merely avoiding defeat but dismissing the possibility, reconfirms the impression that, for all their infuriating lapses, they have become more difficult to beat.

To put events yesterday in context, Thorpe and Ramprakash came together on Monday evening with England four wickets down and still 58 short of making South Australia bat again.

By start of play yesterday, they were marginally in profit, but, during a testing morning, they needed to see off the second new ball, propelled by two of Australia's spiciest fast bowlers.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 167 (N Hussain 57, D G Cork 51)

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes M A Boucher, M A Alport, N Hussain, D G Cork, G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, Extras, Total.

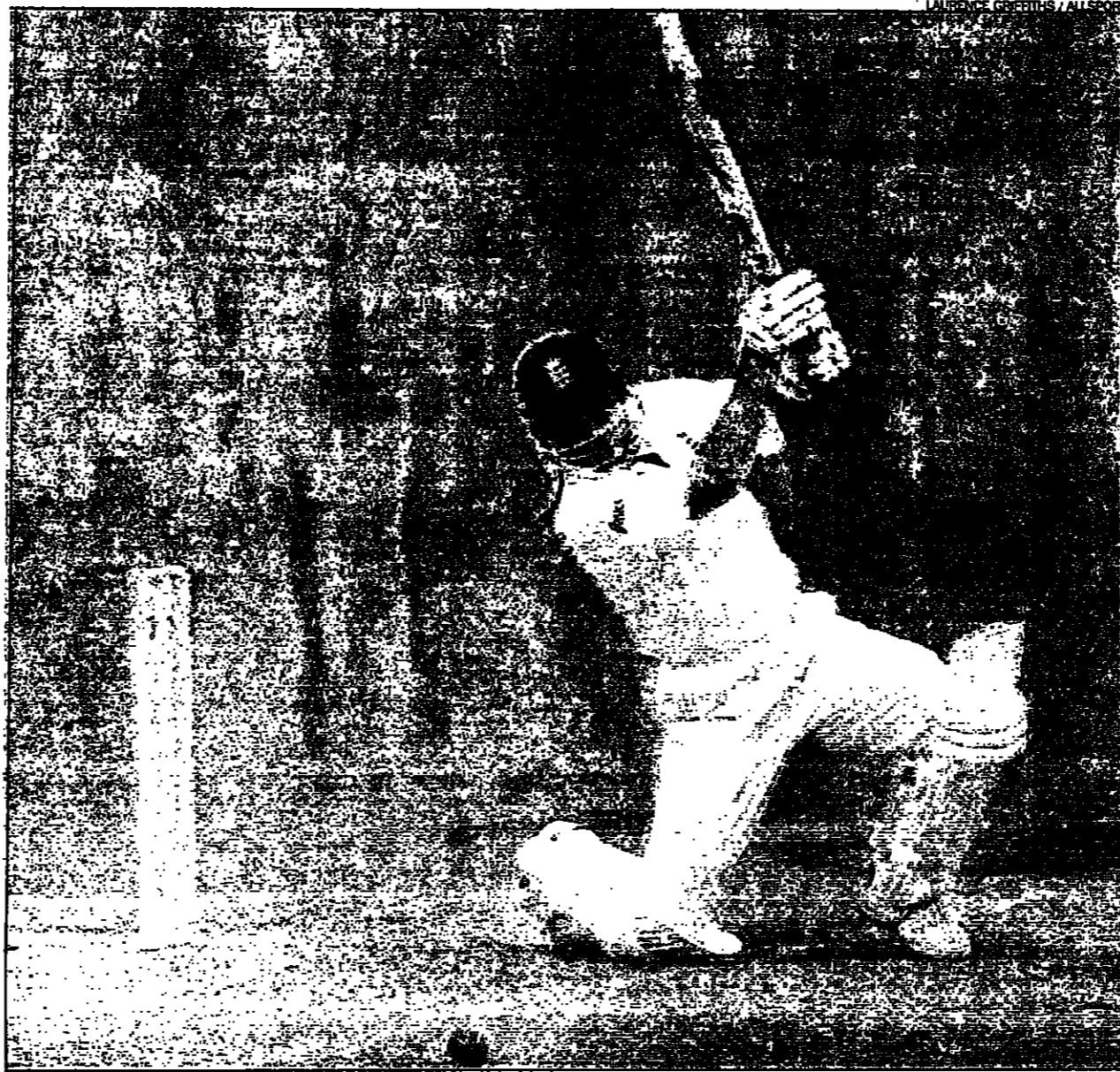
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-72, 3-75, 4-80. BOWLING: Gillespie 27-14-52-1, Henry 31-7-87-1, Arnold 25-5-118-2, Johnson 15-2-45-0, Blewett 13-3-21-1, Cook 25-5-91-0, Faulk 4-0-21-0.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First Innings 329 (G S Blewett 143, J M Vaughan 58, Cork 4 for 48)

a precious injection of confidence for a man who has suffered chronic self-doubt since midsummer. Ramprakash made 140 not out and, in the process, reconfirmed his hold on the Test place that he has never believed has been anything more than on loan.

wait, grateful only that they can now plan to be involved in them, something neither had been taking for granted. Thorpe admits he has consciously avoided planning ahead since undergoing back surgery in July.

After that, there were commemorative pictures to be taken in front of the scoreboard, interviews to be staged and much communal backslapping.



Ramprakash, the junior partner in the stand with Thorpe, drives through the covers during his unbeaten 140

looming shadow cast by John Crawley, since his 153 in the final Test of summer, is actually preventing him being the player he should be.

rigid application and technical merit more than the fluency of his strokeplay. He scored only 28 before lunch and, in a remarkable afternoon session that produced 194 runs from 33 overs, Ramprakash contributed just 67.

slip off Greg Blewett during the final over with the old ball. His innings was chanceless thereafter and although Thorpe might have been caught three times, the first occasion was not until he had made 150 and the game was safe.

On a stuffily slow pitch, the ultimate contrast with the surface in Perth last week, the bowlers had a thankless task and the two debut-making spinners eventually had their inexperience exposed.

RECORD PARTNERSHIPS

300-RUN PARTNERSHIPS BY TOURING TEAMS IN AUSTRALIA

Table with 4 columns: Test Wkt Partners, Match, England vs South Australia, Adelaide, 1986-87. Includes names like G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, M C Cowdrey, W Grayney.

350-RUN PARTNERSHIPS BY ENGLISH TEAMS OVERSEAS

Table with 4 columns: Test Wkt Partners, Match, South Australia v Australia, Adelaide, 1982-83. Includes names like G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, M C Cowdrey, W Grayney.

Ponting points Australia to one-day best



AUSTRALIA set a record for a team batting second in a one-day international when they overhauled Pakistan's score of 315 for eight to win by six wickets with seven balls to spare in Lahore, Australia, for whom Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting both scored centuries in a match full of records, won the series 3-0.

His 12 fours included many delightful strokes. Ponting, of Tasmania, kept pace with his partner to complete his fifth one-day century in 109 balls, hitting nine fours.

Aamir Sohail for 103. Moyn had missed an opportunity to dismiss Gilchrist, when the batsman was on 83, when he fumbled a chance off Aamir. Darren Lehmann fell after making eight, but Steve Waugh, who scored 30, added another 69 runs with Ponting to take Australia within sight of their target.

However, Yousuf was the more aggressive of the two, reaching his maiden limited-over century off 109 balls, including 14 fours. Steve Waugh used eight bowlers in an attempt to dislodge the pair and it was Lehmann who finally made the breakthrough, bowling Ijaz with his second ball.

Zimbabwe coast to victory

ZIMBABWE will meet India in the final of the Champions Trophy in Sharjah on Friday after beating Sri Lanka, the world champions, by 24 runs yesterday. Sri Lanka needed to win the match comprehensively after losing all of their previous games in the competition.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe wicketkeeper, scored 95 in a record national partnership of 148 for the fourth wicket with Neil Johnson, the former Leicestershire all-rounder, who made 72. This represented a solid performance by the two batsmen, who came together with the innings teetering on disaster at 24 for three.

keeping the Sri Lanka pinch-hitters at bay with figures of four for 32 from his ten overs. He was named man of the match for his efforts.

SCOREBOARD FROM LAHORE

Table with 2 columns: Pakistan, Australia. Includes names like Aamir Sohail, Gilchrist, Moyn, Waugh, Ponting, Ijaz, and scores.

Table with 2 columns: Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe. Includes names like Jayasuriya, Gamage, Strang, Flower, Johnson, and scores.

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

Table with 2 columns: Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe. Includes names like Jayasuriya, Gamage, Strang, Flower, Johnson, and scores.

Table with 2 columns: Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe. Includes names like Jayasuriya, Gamage, Strang, Flower, Johnson, and scores.

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

SPORT

Vision

WEEKEND

metro

the times
magazine

meg@

THE  TIMES

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
FOOTBALL
Reid plots
further
glory for
Sunderland

[Faded newspaper text]



Striker

the opportunity

TODAY'S FIXTURES

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| MANCHESTER UNITED | NEWCASTLE |
| ARSENAL | LEEDS |
| | |

مكتبة من الأصل

Richard Eaton finds reason for fresh hope in badminton

Park promises rich rewards

Park Joo-Bong gave up celebrity status in South Korea to live in this country. He relinquished a university job in Seoul and forsook a comfortable income...



PAUL ROGERS

This group includes Joanne Goode, the only player to win three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, and Simon Archer and Chris Hunt...

This was the area of greatest cultural shock for Park, who was not used to players answering back and found it hard to understand why three days of national training was not six...

It has often been frustrating for him, but he has taken it well

It is not possible just to tell a European player what to do; it is important to persuade, Lee said. It was also Lee who persuaded Park to come to Britain...

This will increase the number of courts and accommodation, but, according to Baddeley, it's been difficult for him. He clearly has very strong views about what it takes to be a top player...

Sad day for old soldiers

The Soldiers' Pilgrimage BBC2, 7.20pm

Although it was made last year, this film about 14 old soldiers visiting the First World War battlefields and cemeteries in Belgium loses none of its impact...



Morse (John Thaw) is taken ill but still tackles a Victorian mystery (ITV, 8pm)

Inspector Morse: The Wench Is Dead ITV, 8.00pm

Two things distinguish the latest Morse from its 31 predecessors: the murder is 140 years old and John Thaw's sidekick is not the much-abused Lewis but a young fast-track graduate played by Matthew Finney...

her recollection of an unconsummated romance with a young man who went off to die in the First World War is sharp and full of emotion...

Comedy Lab Channel 4, 11.30pm It was only a matter of time before somebody sent up that burlesque television genre the documentary soap...

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting Radio 4, 2.15pm

This play for Armistice Day is an atmospheric and moving one. Peter Wolf, of the last hours of Wilfred Owen's life (he was killed just before the armistice) and the title comes from Owen's great poem...

Costing the Earth Radio 4, 9.00pm

A new series of the environment programme that has proven to be excellent at cutting through the thickets of verbosity that emerge from grandiose, inter-government environmental conferences and the like to tell us what is actually happening...

- RADIO 1: 6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley... RADIO 2: 6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan... RADIO 5 LIVE: 6.00am Breakfast with Julian Worricker... VIRGIN RADIO: 6.30am Chris Evans... TALK RADIO: 6.30am Bill Overton...

- WORLD SERVICE: 6.30am Sports International 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf... CLASSIC FM: 6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast... RADIO 3: 6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes... RADIO 4: 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Rainer Hersch's All Classical Music Explained...

California Zinfandel advertisement. Features a bottle of wine and a plate of goats cheese tartlet and herb salad. Text includes 'Perfect with goats cheese tartlet and herb salad.' and contact information for Sutter Home.

WORD-WATCHING section. Lists various words with definitions and example sentences. Includes words like ALPARGATA, FOSSOR, BAHADUR, FLOBERT, and CHESS MOVE.

SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES advertisement. Features a bottle of wine and a glass. Text includes 'Perfect without goats cheese tartlet and herb salad.' and 'They don't need food to make sense.'

Additional radio programs and schedules. Includes sections for RADIO 1, RADIO 2, RADIO 3, and RADIO 4, listing various shows and their times.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. Features the word 'Editor.' and other text, possibly related to a magazine or publication.

1 soldiers



...I have taken it but will... a Victorian military (TV, Spm)

Editor, there seems to be a tongue in my cheek

For the most part, Riete Oord, who directed last night's *Cutting Edge* (Channel 5) on *Hello!* magazine, behaved herself — realising that to milk the most merriment from a subject like this, it pays to play it as straight as possible. Nonetheless, one of the most entertaining moments was when Oord mischievously asked Maggie Koumi, editor of the celebrity-struck magazine, if her staff worked with their tongues in their cheek. Either Koumi is a good actress, or she was genuinely dumfounded: why on earth, she asked vehemently, would her staff see working on *Hello!* as ironic? A chastened Oord mumbled politely, the way you'd mumble if you'd just told Jimmy Durante how you admired people who made a virtue out of having a nose the size of Long Island, and he replied "I guess so. But personally, I'd still hate to have a giant hooter."

GIVEN the way this Government likes to handle its relations with the press, it is surprising that it hasn't made *Hello!* the approved organ of the Labour Party.

Faced with having to explain why exactly it misled the country by telling us it knew nothing more about what Ron Davies had been up to on Clapham Common that fateful night, Downing Street could rely on the interviewer from *Hello!* to ask Alastair Campbell the crucial, revealing question: "With the plans for the Welsh assembly now in turmoil, the Middle East peace process once again under threat and Ireland's future still precarious, can you tell us, Mr Campbell, how it is that you manage to juggle a busy workload and still find time to devote to making your home so gracious and beautiful?" Even Des O'Connor couldn't get a job on *Hello!* for fear that he might scare off the subjects with over-aggressive interrogation.

Although renowned for its never-knowingly unsympathetic organ towards the rich and famous, *Hello!* is possibly even better known for its notorious "curse". No sooner do deep-in-love couples agree to be photographed for the magazine in their gracious and beautiful homes than they announce that they're separating. Bill Wyman and Mandy Smith, Gazza and Sheryl, Elizabeth Taylor and Larry Fortensky, Viscount Althorp and Victoria Lockwood, the Duke and Duchess of York — it's as if *Hello!* is the devil, and Faustusian couples, must choose whether to sell their marital happiness in return for *Hello!*'s fat cheque.

It's a touchy enough subject for *Hello!*'s publishing director, Sally Cartwright, to tell Oord: "More than one in two marriages ends in divorce these days in the UK, and it's higher among celebrities, politicians, sportsmen and so on — the people we're featuring. I don't think we can take the credit for causing the divorces." Oh Sally, you're so selfless!

So how has the magazine survived to celebrate ten years on the newstands in Britain — the ostensible occasion for this documentary? Because, first and last, says Maggie Koumi, "*Hello!* is a news magazine. *Hello!*, whatever the critics say, if you look at it,

it's a history of our life and times." Surprising, then, that you so rarely read articles in *Hello!* about folk like Shaun. You might call Shaun a central plank of *Drinking For England*, the first in a new series of *Modern Times* (BBC2), if only the word "plank" didn't connote altogether too dynamic a sense of Shaun's lifestyle.

But let him describe it himself, as he sits on his gracious and beautiful sofa: "I drink about ten or twelve pints a day, seven nights a week. Barbara [his wife] gets absolutely pissed off with it. And I can understand it. She works, comes home at five, and at six I've gone." Every night, after closing time, she drives to the pub to collect him. "And I shall just stumble into bed and she has to take me socks off, 'cos I can't bend down because of my hip problem. And she takes them off, 'Oh God, God, the smell!' Then I plonk out on the bed." Somehow you can't

imagine Maggie Koumi fighting to pay big money for exclusive rights to the story of Shaun's gracious life and times.

The trick used by director Brian Hill — who directed *Sylvania Waters* — to make us think we were watching more than just a bunch of drunks was to hire the poet Simon Armitage to write verse, or sometimes a Dennis Porter-style song, that encapsulated the lifestyle of the various soaks and which they then recited or sang to camera.

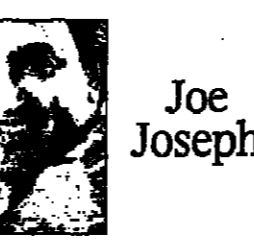
Hill's idea was to "push the limits of the documentary genre". It was clever and stylish in its way, but it didn't tell us anything about drunks we didn't know: it just gave them an undesired, slightly romantic raffishness, whereas a boozier is generally just another boozier — as in rhymes with loser.

The first in a new series of *Back to the Floor* last night (BBC2) was

an eye-opening account of what *Budlin's* new managing director, Tony Marshall, learnt when he briefly became a Redcoat at the Minehead camp. The new £7 million swimming pool is leaping, guests are seething about their rooms, staff morale is flatter than Norfolk. The surprise is not that *Budlin's* is now faltering but how it ever got to be successful in the first place. Back at HQ, Marshall tells his top managers that his Redcoat experience at Minehead was so "mind-blowing" that he wants them all to go too.

The look of dread in their eyes as they readily hailed their boss's brainwave was even worse than the look you'd see on Maggie Koumi's face if Sarah Ferguson announced she was selling exclusive picture rights to her next skipping trip to *Hello!*'s deadly rival, *OK!* And in the history of our life and times, things don't get much more dreadful than that.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (41546)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (86332)

9.00 *Kiroy* (T) (8754879)

9.40 *Style Challenge* (9680430)

10.05 *City Hospital* (T) (9624343)

11.05 *Two Minutes' Silence* Marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War, followed by *Real Rooms* (9494904)

11.28 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (T) (949701)

11.58 *News* (T) Regional news and weather (9261166)

12.05 *Pass the Book* (4052701)

12.20 *Spin Going for a Song* (4011506)

12.50 *The Weather Show* (T) (80613040)

1.00 *One O'Clock News* (T) (15579)

1.30 *Regional News* (T) (73457362)

1.40 *Neighbours* Susan gives Karl his marching orders (T) (87076755)

2.05 *Ironside* (T) (8236189) 2.55 *Wipeout* (2423362)

3.25 *Playdays* (T) (8185546) 3.45 *Bananaman* (T) (8687186) 3.50 *ChuckleVision* (T) (2523817) 4.10 *Get Your Own Back* (T) (9381430)

4.35 *Microsoap* Last in series (T) (7068456)

5.00 *Newsround* (T) (4699169)

5.10 *Blue Peter* (T) (5904986)

5.35 *Neighbours* (T) (430701)

6.00 *5 O'Clock News* (T) (527)

6.30 *Regional News* (T) (879)

7.00 *A Question of Sport* with footballer Vinnie Jones, cricketer Angus Fraser, athlete Iwan Thomas and swimmer Susan Rolph (T) (7071)

7.30 *Tomorrow's World* Anya Staram reports on alternative heart treatment using a simple injection designed to encourage blood vessel growth (T) (861)

8.00 *The Life of Birds* David Attenborough describes how white-tailed owls locate lemmings, their prey, by using night vision 100 times better than any other bird's (T) (328430)

8.50 *The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories* (T) (763817)

9.00 *News* (T) and weather (8140)

9.28 *National Lottery Update* (941166)

9.30 *One Foot in the Grave* Relations between the Meldrads become strained as Margaret is plagued by nightmares about killing her husband (T) (81985)

10.00 *The Best of British* Award-winning comedian Victoria Wood reflects on 30 years in the business. (446782) **WALES:** 10.00 *The Silver Screen* (531740) 10.40 *The Best of British* (956514) 11.00 *The Day the Game Went Wild* (30117) 12.15-1.56am *FLM: Footloose* (938676)

10.45 *The Day the Giants Fell Silent* (2/2). Timothy West narrates extracts from letters and diaries of First World War survivors (925530)

11.35 *Footloose* (1984) See Film Choice.

1.00 *A Rebelious student* from the city moves to a small town, where he clashes with a preacher who has banned dancing for its immorality. Starring Kevin Bacon, Lori Singer and John Lithgow. Directed by Herbert Ross (258877)

1.15am *Weather* (4200878)

1.20 *BBC News 24*

BBC2

6.10am *The Rinvoluoti Chapel*, Florence (3261966) 6.35 *Science Skills* (9063169)

7.00 *King Greenfingers* (T) (5802140) 7.05 *Teletubbies* (T) (2613782) 7.30 *Tom and Jerry Kicks* (T) (241521) 7.55 *To Me, To You* (T) (871) 8.00 *Sueper Sueper* (T) (8317256) 8.45 *Juniper Junjo* (T) (T) (8022362) 8.55 *King Greenfingers* (5511633) 9.00 *Dynamo* (T) (7629508) 9.10 *What? Where? When? Why?* (7632072) 9.25 *Focus* (T) (523033) 9.45 *Words and Pictures* (889255) 10.00

Teletubbies (91701) 10.30 *Numberline* (3290782) 10.45 *Cats' Eyes* (3295237)

11.00 *Around Scotland* (896324) 11.20 *The Geography Programme* (72061)

11.40 *Science in Action* (7265188) 12.00 *News Today* (132650) 12.30 *Working Lunch* (72081) 1.00 *Junior Reporter* (98387817) 1.10 *Sophie Grigson's Herbs* (43294817) 1.15 *History Hour* (T) (411850)

2.15 *Match of Their Day: Kenneth Wolstenholme* (70913985) 2.40 *News* (T) 2.45 *Westminster* (T) (1202633)

3.35 *At the Going Down of the Sun* The Queen leads a service of remembrance from Ypres (2323850)

4.20 *Remembrance* Meditation with Geraldine James (T) (9236140)

4.25 *Ready, Steady, Cook!* (T) (3782879)

4.55 *Easter Guest* presenter Kaye Adams asks whether being a virgin is back in vogue (T) (7) (5588053) 5.30 *Today's the Day* (T) (256) 6.00 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (T) (770898)

6.45 *At the Going Down of the Sun* From the Menin Gate, Ypres (348508)

7.20 *The Soldiers' Pilgrimage* Survivors of the First World War revisit the battlefields of France and Belgium to pay tribute to comrades who failed to return home (972514)

8.00 *Home Front in the Garden* (T) (4081) 8.30 *The Antiques Show* The search begins for the Chipperdales of the future (T) (5558)

9.00 *Nurse* The student nurses are on the ward for the first time (T) (450324)

9.50 *Talking Heads* D1 Dame Thora Hird stars in the last of Alan Bennett's monologues (9.50pm)

10.20 *Trade Secrets* (930865)

10.30 *Newsnight* presented by Martha Kearney (T) (950072)

11.15 *Brothers and Sisters* (T) (661459) 11.55 *Weather* (271695) 12.00 *Despatch Box* (26183)

12.30am *Learning Zone: Arts Late* (93183) 1.00 *Differences of Screen* (26714) 1.30 *Pressing Judgements* (83164) 2.00 *Schools: Statistics* (49305) 4.00 *Languages: Deutsch* (89725) 5.00 *RCN Nursing Update* (86270) 5.30 *RCN Nursing Update* (806547) 5.45 *O.U.: Plant Growth Regulators* (88933)

HIV

6.00am *GMTV* (9194091)

9.25 *Triha* (T) (9822968)

10.15 *This Morning* (T) (41330169)

12.15 pm *Regional News* (3286965)

12.30 *News* (T) and weather (76817)

1.00 *Shortland Street* (32375)

1.30 *Home and Away* (T) (75188)

2.00 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9744607)

3.10 *News* (7933340)

3.15 *Regional News* (7932701)

3.20 *Wizards* (T) (7920566) 3.30 *The Slow Norris* (7304850) 3.45 *The Animal Show* (7925333) 4.00 *Rupert* (T) (3745546) 4.25 *The Rottenlols* (T) (4844382) 4.40 *Mao* (T) (8253817)

5.10 *WALKS: Primitime Diary* (4818072)

5.10 *Wildlife Rescue: Sea Mammals SOS* (4818072)

6.00 *News* (T) and weather (313995)

6.00 *Home and Away* (T) (723234)

6.25 *Wales Tonight* (T) (944546)

6.25 *HTV Weather* (357430)

6.30 *The West Tonight* (T) (275)

7.00 *Emmerdale* Mandy and Butch's big day arrives (T) (9189)

7.30 *Coronation Street* Jim gives Liz his blessing (T) (459)

8.00 *Inspector Morse: The Wench is Dead* Morse investigates the murder of a young woman who was killed in 1858. With John Thaw and Matthew Finney (T) (4701)

10.00 *News* (T) and weather (41633)

10.30 *Regional News* (442742)



Clive James turns his critical eye on the pop music business (10.40pm)

10.40 *Clive James* on TV Clive James takes a look back at British television, with the help of his special guest, Lulu, and a celebrity audience (950904)

11.10 *Strays* (1982) with Kathleen Curran, Timothy Busfield and Claudia Christian. A city couple purchase their dream house in the country only to discover they have inherited the last of a group of wildcats. Directed by John McPherson (182682)

12.40 *The Anderson Tapes* (1971) Sean Connery, Dyan Cannon and Marlon Brando star in this thriller about a former convict who attempts to pull off a million-dollar burglary, unaware that his every move is being monitored by the services. Directed by Sidney Lumet (43003)

2.30 *The Hopeful Traveller* David Bean continues his walk through the Cumbrian countryside (4101657)

2.55 *Triha* (T) (9822968)

3.45 *Cybernet* (2122658)

4.10 *Soundtrax* (78038251)

4.40 *TV Nightscreen* (98735251)

5.00 *Coronation Street* (80096)

5.30 *News* (29368)

CENTRAL

As **HIV** West except:

1.00pm *Echo Spot* (32375)

1.30 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9923850)

5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (4818072)

6.25-7.00 *Central News* (944546)

11.10 *Central Sports Special* (82362)

2.30am *The Hopeful Traveller* (4101657)

3.40 *Cybernet* (2122658)

4.05 *Central Jobfinder '98* (2362590)

5.20 *Asian Eye* (9827098)

WESTCOUNTRY

As **HIV** West except:

12.15pm *Westcountry News* (3828695)

1.00 *Emmerdale* (32375)

1.30 *The Jerry Springer Show* (9923850)

5.08 *Birthdays People* (9448188)

5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (4818072)

6.00-7.00 *Westcountry Live* (51508)

11.10 *Power Game* (463817)

11.40 *The Westcountry Match* (734879)

MERIDIAN

As **HIV** West except: 12.15-12.30 *News and Weather* (328695) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (4818072) 6.00 *Meridian Tonight* (665) 6.30-7.00 *A Weekend's Work* (275) 11.10 *Taped Up* (433817) 11.40 *Renegead* (734879) 5.00am *Freescreen* (80065)

ENGLAND

As **HIV** West except: 1.00pm-1.30 *Sport Second* (32375) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (4818072) 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* (944546) 11.10 *Midweek Kick-Off* (82362)

Starts: 6.00am *Sesame Street* (34256)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (21430)

9.00 *Book Box* (28782)

9.30 *Ret-A-Tat-Tat* (8666168)

9.45 *Book Box* (8654324)

10.00 *Stage Two Science* (3296324)

10.15 *All About Us* (3219275)

10.30 *Top! En Français* (9335966)

10.50 *Stop, Look, Listen* (6601633)

11.00 *First Edition* (4368879)

11.15 *Inside Art* (4372430)

11.30 *Powerhouse* (3343)

12.00 *The Ramayana* (48548)

12.30pm *Sesame Street* (34256)

1.00 *Planned Plant* (89363237)

1.15 *Lisabeth* (96351492)

1.30 *Travelog Treks* (8706633)

1.55 *FLM: Paths of Glory* (94703527)

3.30 *Collectors' Lot* (463)

4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (188)

4.30 *Ricki Lake* (512)

5.15 *Fell* (4694614)

5.30 *Countdown* (324)

6.00 *Newsday* (6194898)

6.10 *Heno* (778430)

7.00 *Pobol y Cwm* (650324)

7.25 *Fleming* (855308)

8.00 *Gwaith Cartref* (8458)

8.30 *Newsday* (5865)

9.00 *Drop the Dead Donkey* (2850)

9.30 *Is It Legal?* (54695)

10.00 *Brookside* (819614)

10.35 *Ally McBeal* (798324)

11.30 *Fraser* (82053)

12.00am *Under the Moon* (8883454)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am *Sesame Street* (34256)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (T) (21430)

9.00 *Schools: Book Box* (28782) 9.30 *Ret-A-Tat-Tat* (8666168) 9.45 *Book Box* (8654324) 10.00 *Stage Two Science* (3296324) 10.15 *All About Us* (3219275) 10.30 *Top! En Français* (9335966) 10.50 *Stop, Look, Listen* (6601633) 11.00 *First Edition* (4368879) 11.15 *Inside Art* (4372430) 11.30 *Powerhouse* (3343) 12.00 *The Ramayana* (48548) 12.30pm *Sesame Street* (34256) 1.00 *Planned Plant* (89363237) 1.15 *Lisabeth* (96351492) 1.30 *Travelog Treks* (8706633) 1.55 *FLM: Paths of Glory* (94703527) 3.30 *Collectors' Lot* (463) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (188) 4.30 *Ricki Lake* (512) 5.15 *Fell* (4694614) 5.30 *Countdown* (324) 6.00 *Newsday* (6194898) 6.10 *Heno* (778430) 7.00 *Pobol y Cwm* (650324) 7.25 *Fleming* (855308) 8.00 *Gwaith Cartref* (8458) 8.30 *Newsday* (5865) 9.00 *Drop the Dead Donkey* (2850) 9.30 *Is It Legal?* (54695) 10.00 *Brookside* (819614) 10.35 *Ally McBeal* (798324) 11.30 *Fraser* (82053) 12.00am *Under the Moon* (8883454)

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7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (T) (21430)

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CHANNEL 5

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videopoint decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am *5 News* and *Sport* (2904256) 7.00 *WideWorld* (T) (T) (6660633) 7.30 *Melchior* (8616625)

7.35 *What-A-Mess* (T) (181169) 8.00 *Hovkattil* (2067411) 8.30 *DappleDown Farm* (2668782)

9.00 *HomeBusters* (T) (7988850) 9.25 *Russell Grant's Postcards* (T) (4749546)

9.30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (2567099) 10.20 *Sunset Beach* (T) (2507275) 11.10 *Loeza* (T) (8512140)

12.00 *5 News* at Noon (T) (2077898) 12.30 pm *Family Affairs* (T) (T) (7908966)

1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (T) (8699004) 1.30 *Sons and Daughters* (7907327) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5215830)

2.30 *Good Afternoon* (8637633)

3.30 *Veronica* Clares - *Stow Violence* (1991.TM) Jazz club owner and private detective Veronica Clares gets involved in two more mysteries. The first involves her trying to locate the errant mother of a baby abandoned at the jazz club; and the second is the case of a boxer who suddenly leaves his manager after sixty years. Starring Laura Robson and Tony Price. Directed by Leon Icha and Deborah Dalton (T) (4445527)

5.10 *The Roseanne Show* (9674099) 6.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5215830) 6.30 *Family Affairs* (T) (5711966)

7.00 *5 News* (5226966) 7.30 *The Pepsi Chart* (95700850)

8.00 *Hot Property* (T) (5253614) 8.30 *In the Dink* (T) (521421)

9.00 *Her Hidden Truth* (1996.TM) Starring Kellie Martin and Antonio Sabato. Drama in which a young woman who, after being falsely accused of an arson attack at the age of ten, is institutionalised for the murder of her mother and sister. Released at the age of 18 and determined to clear her name, she enlists the help of a sympathetic detective to help her track down the killers. Directed by Dan Lerner (T) (81494817)

10.50 *Melinda's Big Night* (8404878) 11.30 *Comproising Situations* (9785409)

12.05am *NHL: American Ice Hockey Colorado v Phoenix* (4877275)

4.40 *Club Cadets* (92143560) 5.05 *You Asker!* (47122678)

5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (1970638)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videopoint decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am *5 News* and *Sport* (2904256) 7.00 *WideWorld* (T) (T) (6660633) 7.30 *Melchior* (8616625)

7.35 *What-A-Mess* (T) (181169) 8.00 *Hovkattil* (2067411) 8.30 *DappleDown Farm* (2668782)

9.00 *HomeBusters* (T) (7988850) 9.25 *Russell Grant's Postcards* (T) (4749546)

9.30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (2567099) 10.20 *Sunset Beach* (T) (2507275) 11.10 *Loeza* (T) (8512140)

12.00 *5 News* at Noon (T) (2077898) 12.30 pm *Family Affairs* (T) (T) (7908966)

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7.00 *5 News* (5226966) 7.30 *The Pepsi Chart* (95700850)

8.00 *Hot Property* (T) (5253614) 8.30 *In the Dink* (T) (521421)

9.00 *Her Hidden Truth* (1996.TM) Starring Kellie Martin and Antonio Sabato. Drama in which a young woman who, after being falsely accused of an arson attack at the age of ten, is institutionalised for the murder of her mother and sister. Released at the age of 18 and determined to clear her name, she enlists the help of a sympathetic detective to help her track down the killers. Directed by Dan Lerner (T) (81494817)

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4.40 *Club Cadets* (92143560) 5.05 *You Asker!* (47122678)

5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (1970638)

WATERGAPS

Watergaps World 11.00 **Wales** 11.30 *Welsh* 12.00 *Worthington Cup Football* 1.30am *Goal Extra* 4.30 *Sports Centre*

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 *Wrestling: Shotgun* 1.00pm *Fish TV* 2.00 *Boing Superstars* 3.00 *American College Football* 5.00 *Copa Libertadores* 5.30 *Fifa World Cup Extra* 7.0



RUGBY UNION 42

Luger hits target as Woodward begins World Cup journey

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

BADMINTON 46

England begin to savour the joys of Park life



'Bold' appointment welcomed

FA gets help in move to tackle 'sleaze'

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE task of tackling the unsavoury side of football has been handed to a 37-year-old CID officer from Barnsley. From January, Graham Bean, who has been national chairman of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) for the past two years, will be the first "sleazebuster" investigating cases of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and misconduct.

His appointment by the Football Association, initially on a three-year contract, is intended to crack down on the sort of scandals that have plagued the sport in recent years, including the "bung" affair, in which George Graham was suspended from football for a year.

Bean will also possibly step in to interview players in such cases as the long-running feud between Ian Wright, the former Arsenal player, and Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, which did much to harm football because of the violence and allegations of racial abuse.

Bean, who has spent 14 of his 18 years' service with South Yorkshire Police as a detective constable, said that he did not expect "an easy ride. It will be a hard slog".

The FA said in a statement: "As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting disciplinary cases and alleged breaches of the FA's rules and regulations. The post was originally recommended last year by Sir John Smith, a former Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner, in his report into football finances and reputations.

It is certainly an intriguing appointment. The FSA has often been regarded with suspicion and sometimes hostility by the football authorities because its members have wanted to play an active role in the administration of the game.

Bean, who became an FSA member in 1990, has succeeded in breaking down these barriers and last year he was appointed to the Government's task force. He said: "It has to be a plus that the FA has been bold enough to appoint a fans' representative."

He has also been involved, while a member of the FSA, in setting up a nationwide bank of solicitors and barristers with expertise in football-related law.

Bean, who principally supports Sheffield Wednesday



Bean: facing "hard slog"

"With a big corner of my heart for Barnsley", will step down as FSA chairman at its national committee meeting on November 15.

He will leave the police on January 3 after a career that saw him working with both the drug and fraud squads. An FSA statement congratulated Bean on his appointment, saying: "We are confident that he will continue to represent the interest of fans competently and effectively in his new post."

A married father of two, he was with his 8-year-old son at Hillsborough for the game against Arsenal on September 26, when Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday player, pushed Paul Alcock, the referee, to the ground.

Bean said that on their return home he was explaining to his wife how Di Canio would face a long ban — the Italian was suspended for 11 matches for that incident. "He is my lad's favourite player and he did not want him banned at all," he said.

This is the sort of incident that Bean might now have to scrutinise in his new role. After that match finished, there were reports of incidents in the tunnel, with the police being involved. Bean would be ideally suited to conduct any inquiries.

He said: "I am the first point of reference in disciplinary matters." Bean will advise the FA on whether action should be taken. If a personal hearing is then requested by a player before an FA disciplinary committee, he will take on the role of prosecutor, a post that does not exist at present.

He was selected from a shortlist of ten, including solicitors, policemen and other people familiar with the judicial system, but was engagingly modest yesterday, particularly about his background. "The FSA opened a lot of doors for me. I will never forget where my roots are," he said.

□ Peter Johnson is locked in a legal wrangle with Frank Corfie, the former Tranmere Rovers chairman, over the control of shares in the club worth more than £200,000.

Lawyers acting for Corfie have issued a writ at the High Court in London against Johnson, the Everton chairman, and Tranmere. Corfie claims that a move by Johnson to transfer 86 per cent of Tranmere shares to one of his nominee companies amounts to a breach of contract and is unlawful. He also claims that Johnson unlawfully transferred loans totalling almost £4 million to the same company in October this year.



In the runs Thorpe, left, and Ramprakash pose in front of the scoreboard that details their record stand. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

Record silences England's critics

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ADELAIDE

THE Australian predilection for demeaning anything English had to be temporarily shelved yesterday when a record that had stood since 1920 was broken with some comfort by two of the batsmen on whom the return of the Ashes may depend.

Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash turned a potential innings defeat into something close to a moral victory against South Australia by putting on an unbroken 377 for the England fifth wicket on a day when Australia had woken to the most complacent comments yet about the forthcoming series.

Readers of the nation's tabloid press were treated to the view that "Shane Warne must be foaming at the mouth and pawing at the raw earth at the prospect of sinking his claws into England's top order this summer". By evening, the cutting was pinned up on the wall of the England dressing-room, with appropriate responses, after a partnership that showed that England have the will to defy defeat. If not yet the wit to concoct victory.

South Australia, having attained a first-innings lead of 138 and reduced the touring side to 80 for four, failed to

take a single wicket in a day that ended 85 minutes early by rain and in which England added 308 runs.

Ramprakash, whose unbeaten 140 should ensure his place for the start of the Ashes series in Brisbane next Friday, looked irked when reminded of the media scorn.

"The local press has been negative about our cricket ever since we landed," he said. "Today, we have shown how hard we are to beat and that we are not going to roll over."

Thorpe was equally dismissive of a media that has scarcely wasted a day in its efforts to pile contempt upon England's prospects, various Australian luminaries continuing to opine that it is no longer valid to play a five-Test Ashes series.

There was no suggestion from either player that England have turned the corner and nor should there be after their pitiful first-innings collapse to 157 all out, which obliged them to spend the next three days trying to save the game.

Thorpe, having emerged from a night of sickness and diarrhoea to make a career-best 223 not out, said: "We know the area in which we have got to be good to compete and that is in the first innings. In this game, we messed up badly."

That they emerged in good spirits was entirely due to a stand that beat, by nine runs, the partnership between Wilfred Rhodes and C. A. G. Russell on this ground in 1920-21 and became the highest for any wicket by an overseas team in Australia.

Match report, page 43
Simon Barnes, page 43
Lara in charge, page 43

TWO CROSSWORD

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 10 | | 11 | 12 | | |
| 13 | | 14 | | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | 24 | | |

No 1560

- ACROSS**
- 1 A lot of (4)
 - 3 Vivid; type of arts (7)
 - 8 Powdery woodcutting residue (7)
 - 9 Joyful (5)
 - 10 Find out (5)
 - 11 French bean (7)
 - 13 About 1092 yd (9)
 - 17 Goods sent back (7)
 - 19 Hidden store (5)
 - 20 Celebrated (5)
 - 22 Fr. city, papal palace (7)
 - 23 Swinging bar (7)
 - 24 Learned volume (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Body tissue; strength (6)
 - 2 Racecourse; card game (9)
 - 3 Clearly understand (3,3,7)
 - 4 Loathe (5)
 - 5 Jump on one leg (5)
 - 6 The prairie wolf (6)
 - 7 Underground passage (6)
 - 12 A loudening of sound (9)
 - 14 Ploy (6)
 - 15 Advantage (6)
 - 16 Session with medium (6)
 - 18 One between furrows (5)
 - 21 NZ extant bird (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1559

ACROSS: 1 Cowling 8 Radar 9 Sheaf 9 Endermic
10 Esperanto 12 Axe 13 Parson 14 Aprons 17 Leo
18 Enamoured 20 Station 21 Arrow 23 Exert 24 Tremble
DOWN: 1 Castle 2 Woe 3 Inferno 4 Gretna 5 Rodeo
6 Demeanour 7 Rackety 11 Personate 13 Pelisse
15 Profane 16 Garnet 18 Evid 19 Dowse 22 Rub

Dalglish's plans threatened by limited company with Celtic

By KEVIN MCCARRA

KENNY DALGLISH'S venture to buy control of Celtic possesses more allure than it does plausibility. Dalglish, a former player with the club, who has also managed Liverpool, Blackburn Rovers and, most recently, Newcastle United, is said to be joining Jim Kerr, the lead singer of the rock group, Simple Minds, to head a consortium that will bid for Celtic.

Anyone harbouring such an ambition has a tortuous path ahead of them, though Fergus McCann, who has a controlling interest, intends to sell up next summer. Complications arise because of the manner in which the club is structured. McCann, contrary to popular belief, does not own a majority of the shares.

Celtic shares fall into two categories: ordinary shares, which carry voting rights, and preference shares, which do not. McCann is in command

for the moment because he bought more than half the ordinary shares. However, in 2001, he would only have one third of the total votes.

Anyone who bought him out next year, therefore, would

have absolute power for just two seasons. It remains to be seen how attractive that limited prize will prove to men such as Dalglish, Kerr and their backers, although the consortium was said by Celtic plc. in a



Kerr consortium



Dalglish: limited prize

statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday, to have requested a meeting with McCann. So far, it has been McCann's plan to offer his holding, in the first instance, to the 9,000 shareholders and to the 9,000 season ticket-holders.

Dermot Desmond, the financier, is expected to increase the already significant stake that he has in Celtic. Many of McCann's shares, which could be worth more than £30 million, are liable to be bought by those who see the club mainly as a profitable investment.

McCann intends that power over Celtic, after his departure, should be widely dispersed, a view he reiterated last night. Any group wishing complete authority over the club would have to forge an alliance with Desmond and persuade McCann to change his mind. Where the Scots-Canadian millionaire is concerned, that has never been easy.

Organisers bid to lure Maradona

By JOHN GOODBODY

DIEGO MARADONA will probably never be forgiven for his "Hand of God" goal that helped to eliminate England from the 1986 World Cup finals, but football supporters in Great Britain could get a rare glimpse of an ageing and notorious talent in the new millennium.

Negotiations are now "quite advanced" for the Argentinian, who has been at the centre of three drugs scandals in the 1990s, to be one of the international stars for a six-a-side indoor tournament scheduled to begin in April 2000.

Neil Black, the managing director of Aladdin Management, said: "We will be in a financial position to afford him. Although the vast majority of the players will be British, we would like a spring-

ling of overseas players and are also talking to Jürgen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthäus, of Germany, and Dunga, from Brazil.

Speaking of Maradona, who retired from competitive play earlier this year but is said to be contemplating making a comeback in Spain, Black said: "He would be perfect in a six-a-side tournament and the British public would be very interested in seeing him." However, he added: "He has had huge personal problems in recent years. Obviously, we would only have players in the league who can conduct themselves like everyone else. This is not a circus event, it is a

serious competition. The public would not countenance expecting to see players who do not turn up."

The first pilot event for the Masters Tournament will take place at the Manchester Arena on November 19, a quadrangular competition involving Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool and Arsenal. Among the players expected to take part are Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson, David O'Leary, Kenny Sansom, Phil Neal and Jan Molby.

The tournament proper would be held in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Glasgow and Belfast. The organisers are hoping that football will acquire the same popularity as Masters events in golf, athletics and tennis.

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هكذا من الأصل

EXTRA 12 PAGES

Sellin Soon to Win

ROMAN ROBERTS LARA

MORSE

Naturally, I've never seen them.

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THE TIMES People & property

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

Selling a house? Soon you'll have to write a book

Welcome to the world of "log books". The central plank of the Government's house-buying reforms...

Sellers may be forced to compile a history of their properties to pass on to buyers. Rachel Kelly looks at a controversial new plan

chairman of the residential committee, says: "While a vendor pack going to the buyer sounds like a good idea, it could cause as many fresh problems as it solves."

There are other difficulties. If a vendor fails to provide a survey, is that a criminal or civil offence? And though the reforms could make sellers more committed, will buyers pull out more often if they have not invested in surveys or legal fees?

John Hodgkinson is a 54-year-old retired engineer who has just bought a £610,000 house in Bolham, near Tiverton, Devon. He is one of the first guinea-pigs of the system.

£16,000 fees on selling the property (about 2 per cent of the purchase price) which was in the hands of receivers. The log book included land registry plans, the agents' particulars, details of four let cottages, a grazing agreement and quotes from tradesmen.

"The log book was fantastic in that it speeded up the transaction," says Mr Hodgkinson. That is the point of the reform. House sales that are speedier than today's three-month average should help to curtail gaga jumping, the process by which a seller reneges on a deal on receiving a higher offer.

But Mr Hodgkinson is adamant that he would not feel comfortable with the seller's own survey. He says: "If I am going to buy something, then the principle remains 'buyer beware'."

Mr Hodgkinson's concerns have been echoed by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers. Michael Day,

BOLHAM HOUSE'S LOG BOOK Mr Hodgkinson's log book contains: Land Registry plans acquired from the vendor's solicitor, showing the property's registered title; a plan of the area with a thick black line around the property...



John Hodgkinson with the history of his house: "The principle remains 'buyer beware'"

INSIDE KITCHENS New designs for the heart of the home page 3 INCENTIVES Buy a flat with a year's rent guaranteed page 4 RICH KIDS Million-pound buyers are getting younger page 8

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Why there's room for change in the kitchen

The right cooking area is vital for an ideal home, says Katherine Bergen

One person in ten is dissatisfied with the kitchen they have and the British spend £900 million a year on improving or replacing them. According to research, it is usually the first room to be tackled on moving house. Now that the function of kitchens has changed as lifestyles and eating have become less formal, they are being redesigned and doubling up as breakfast rooms and dining areas as well as just being updated.

Philip Hayes, for Siematic (01438 369327), has seen the change of the role of the kitchen over the past decade: "Once only very close friends would be invited into the kitchen. Now it is truly the heart of the home and guests even help with the preparation of the food." Mr Hayes adds that customers are much more demanding about the performance of equipment.

"People want two or three different cooking methods, like a steam oven as well as being able to use a wok. Formerly, customer interest was much more about the cosmetic appearance of kitchens."

With the huge interest in cooking, customers care about all the details. Mr Hayes says that property developers are paying much more attention to customer's needs. "People buying in new developments want choice, not just an identical look. Developers are looking at customising to a greater degree."

There is a huge variety and price range to choose from. Siematic kitchens can rise to the £40,000 to £60,000 bracket.

Woodstock Furniture (0171-245 9989), specialises in the design and crafting of bespoke furniture and kitchens from around £10,000. Timbers are mostly imported from

KITCHENS

North America from sustainable and renewable sources and include maple, cherry and oak, although the company will use any suitable material or specialist finishes, including painted, veneered inlays.

Roundhouse Design (0171-428 9955) is a partnership of architects and furniture designers who combine contemporary style with traditional workmanship. Kitchens are tailored to each client's demands. James Taylor, for the company, says: "The future for kitchen design combines smooth curves with streamlined efficiency."

Poggenpohl (0800 243781) is well known for contemporary design, ergonomic innovation and the huge choice of materials and colours in its five kitchen ranges. Prices include the cabinets, appliances, floors, lights and fittings and are in the £30,000 range.

Bulthaup (0171-495 3663) offers innovative design which is modern and highly functional. Unlike most manufacturers it produces just one range, the elements of which are all interchangeable. The current System 25, which costs from £15,000, will be joined by the modular System 20.

Roundel Design (01580 72666), based in Kent, has even constructed a Gothic oak kitchen in an east house. The Gothic arched panels are echoed in the pelmet fretwork and glazed display cabinets. Bow-fronted leaded light windows add to the theme. The company specialises in timbers reclaimed from disused warehouses in old pine, oak, maple and ash.



A Gothic arch is radical but fits perfectly in this Roundel east house scheme. Right, a traditional kitchen in light oak for more conventional customers, also from Roundel



Custom built by Woodstock, complemented by limestone worktops



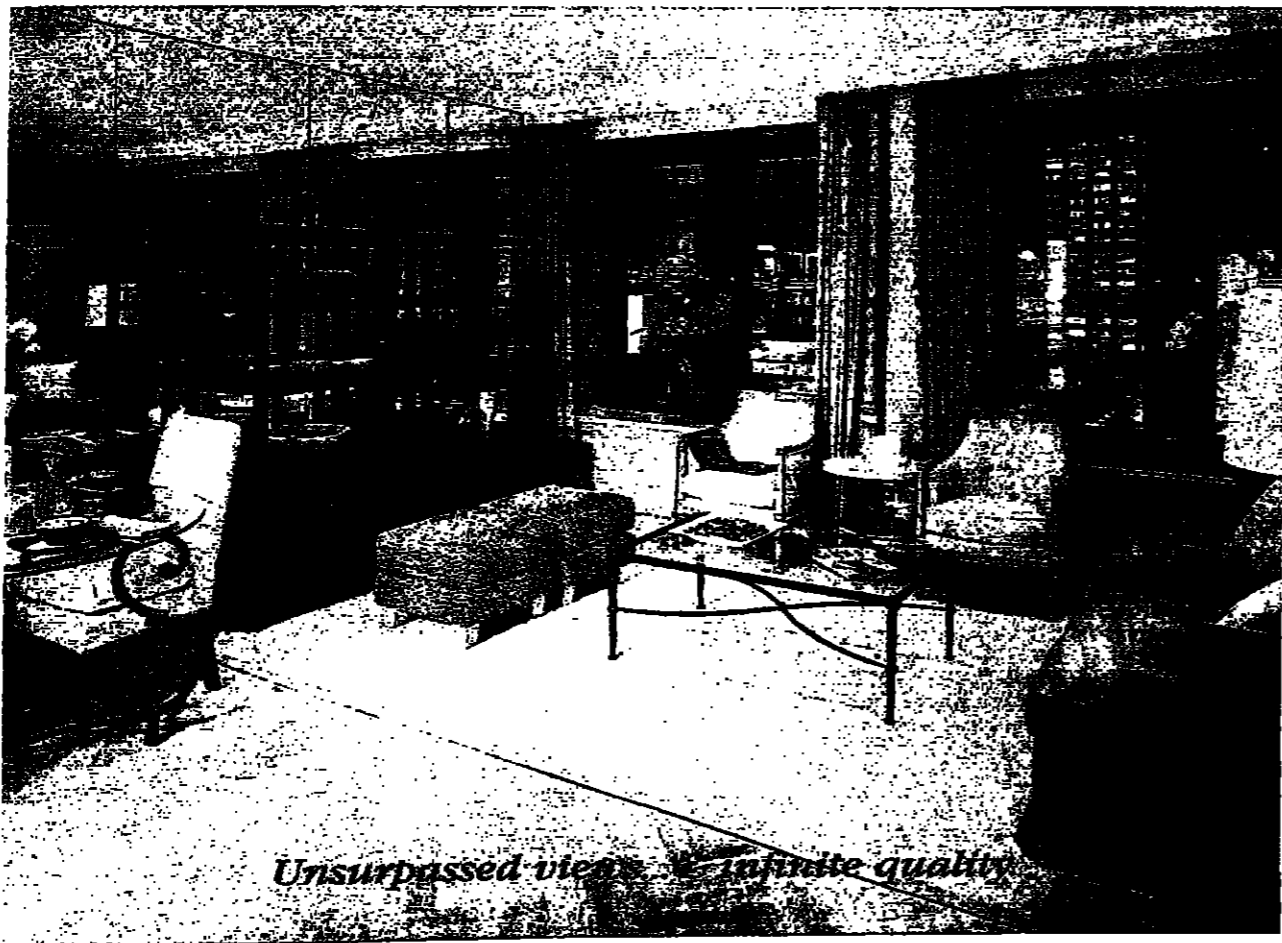
Siematic kitchens harmonise traditional and modern styling



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How buyers are lured with a few canny incentives

Homeseekers cash in as developers offer deals to beat off competitors. Mary Wilson reports

The slowing market may be causing a few headaches for developers, but for canny purchasers things could not be looking more rosy as house-builders do their best to make their product more attractive than competitors. When the going is good, incentives disappear as fast as quicksilver, but now these are back, aimed at investors and owner-occupiers alike.

Galliard Homes has never shied away from offering a carrot to sell its homes and at three of its most recently launched London Dockland developments it is paying purchasers 10 per cent deposits.

Marketing director Roy Conway says: "The market is far from dead but we want to be one step ahead of our competitors. If it means offering an incentive to purchasers, that is what we will do."

Two-bedroom apartments are available at Cubitts Wharf, a warehouse conversion overlooking the Millennium Dome, priced from £195,000, at Tamarind Court, further east along the Thames at Butlers Wharf from £230,000 and Old Bell Gate, a new development close to Canary Wharf, from £165,000.

Prospero House in The Minories, London, EC4, is an office to residential conversion by WillowAcre, which prides itself on building the right product in the right place. But even this company is offering a year's guaranteed rental income to tempt the investor to its 14 apartments rather than the other schemes available in the City.

"Last year we had no problem in selling our schemes off plan," says Barry Glantz, of WillowAcre. "but now buyers are more cautious. We have total confidence that when Prospero House is finished it will be a popular and sought-after City address. So, as an indication of our confidence, we are offering buyers a guarantee for the first year from completion of a 10 per cent gross return on their investment."

Jonathan Vandermolen, of the agents Blenheim Bishop, which is

selling this development, says:

"The difference now is that there is not such an incentive to buy off-plan because there is little perceived growth at the moment. Although we have seen more activity in the last few weeks, buyers still want to feel they are buying well."

Prices range from £150,000 to £325,000.

At St John's, on the site of the old Westminster Hospital, London, SW1, Ballymore Properties is turning the block, which was the Queen Mary's nurses home, into 184 one- and three-bedroom apartments. These overlook St John's Gardens, hence the name of the development, and are priced from £160,000 to £1 million.

Although they have sold well so far, 126 apartments went in four months — the latest phase to be released has the added attraction of a free interior design service.

The show flat for these "Limited Edition" apartments has been designed by international interior designer John Stefanidis, and purchasers of any of the 17 apartments will be offered the complementary interior design consultancy services of Mr Stefanidis.

Sean Mulryan, chairman of Ballymore, says: "We are always aiming to establish new benchmarks in design and luxury in every scheme we undertake. We believe purchasers at St John's are looking for something different that can be created to their needs."

"Buyers of the Limited Edition apartments can take the John Stefanidis design a stage further by asking him and his consultancy to create a total look by offering a complete design service."

Apartments in the new phase start at £475,000 and once purchasers have moved in, they will be able to make use of extra services including chambermaid services, valet parking, laundry and an equipped business suite and health spa. This

pro-active encouragement to new buyers is not restricted to London. In Swansea, South Wales, Galliard Homes offered to pay the 5 per cent deposit for 44 one- and two-bedroom apartments at Marnham Quay. It seemed to work. At the launch a few weeks ago all but one of the flats were sold.

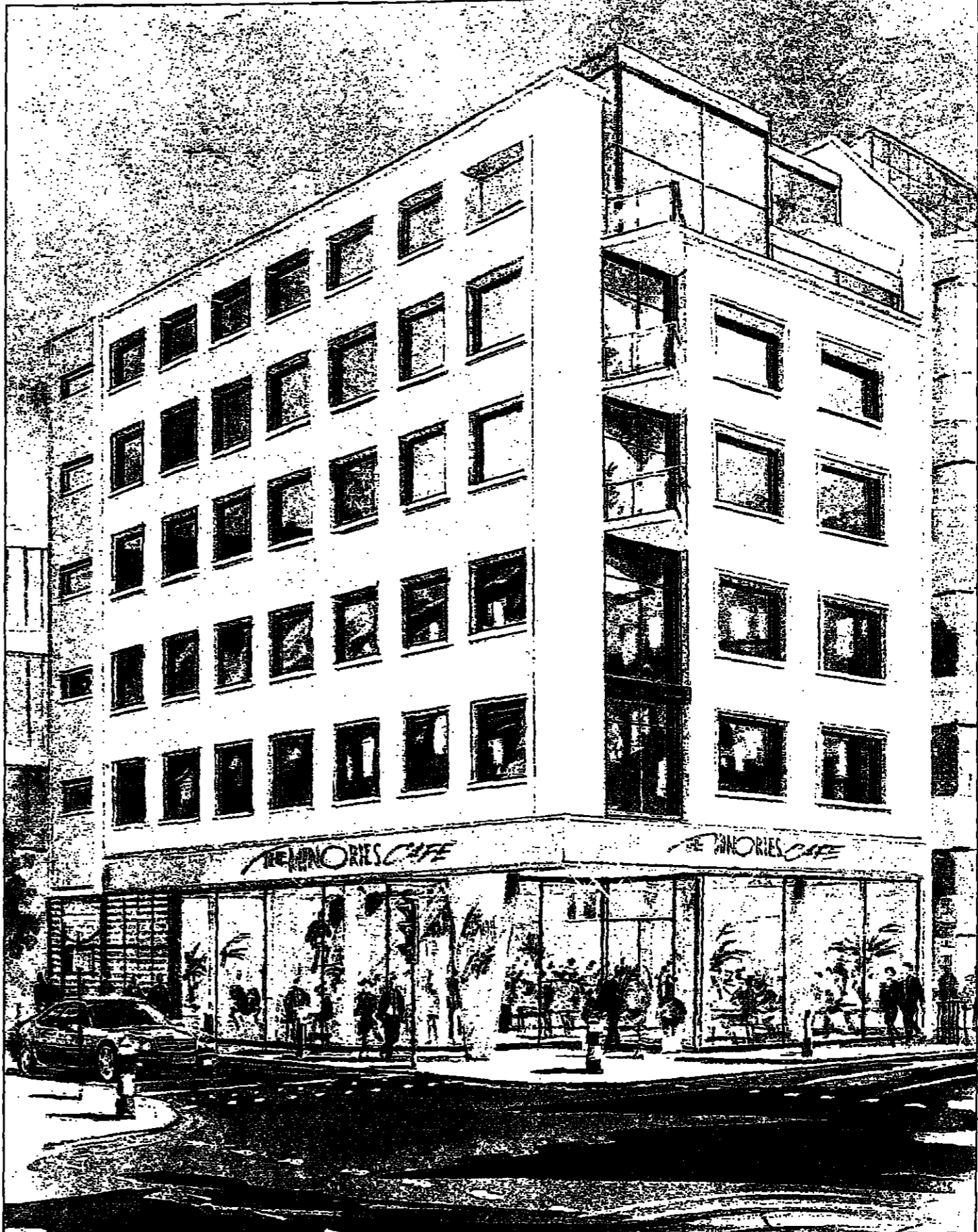
Free leisure facilities are also on offer at a number of developments, which have their own gyms, saunas or swimming pools.

At the Apex Building, an office to residential conversion by Berkeley Homes (North London) in Bunhill Row, London, EC1, the company has just announced that new purchasers will be given a year's free membership of the 7,000 sq ft gymnasium to be built at the development of 34 one, two and three-bedroom apartments. The remaining 20 apartments are priced from £125,000 to £248,000.

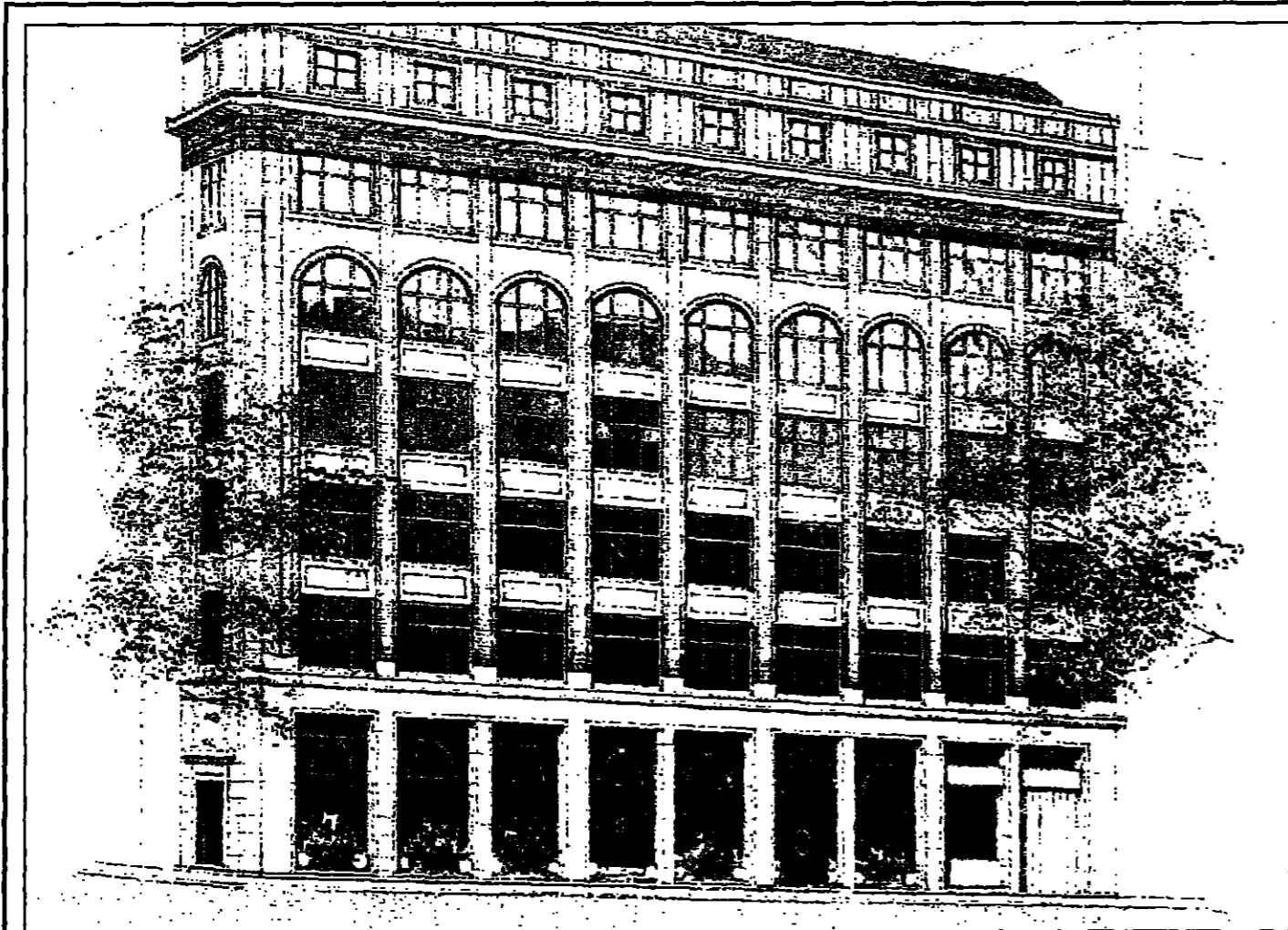
And at Wimbledon Central, southwest London, the developer, Pathfinder Properties, has included a year's free membership of the 24,000 sq ft Esporta Health Club with its 20-metre swimming pool. One third of the development was originally sold to the Far East, before the Asian crisis, and so far the agents, Hamptons, reckon that half the 104 flats have sold for investment. Prices for the 26 remaining apartments range from £152,500 for one-bedroom apartments to £241,500 for a two-bedroom.

So although the number of Far Eastern investors may have greatly diminished, those from the UK, from Europe and most recently from southern Ireland are finding that there are many good deals for the taking.

● Galliard Homes, 0181-508 1281; WillowAcre, 0171-309 9900; Blenheim Bishop, 0171-495 1253; St John's Marketing Suite, 0171-630 8866; Berkeley Homes (North London), 01494 782200; Hamptons, 0171-908 9015.



Prospero House in The Minories, London, EC4 — buyers are offered a guaranteed 10 per cent gross on their investment in the first year



Bridgewater Square, London, EC2 — nine buyers at the Barbican site were attracted to the flats because they were so close to work

Seeking a walk on the mild side

City slickers are setting up home in the Square Mile. Fed up with commuting, more and more are opting to live near their offices, spurred on by the renaissance of City living. Many of the big names in restaurants and retail have decided to ply their trades. Sir Terence Conran recently opened Coq d'Argon there, as has Gary Rhodes with City Rhodes. A Tesco supermarket is due to open in the old fire station in Bishopsgate. Marks & Spencer is opening another store in Gracechurch Street and Harvey Nichols is opening a new restaurant in Leadenhall Street next spring.

Andrew Calverwell, at Hamptons International in the Royal Exchange, says: "I believe that people are disillusioned with commuting and are fed up with journeys of more than an hour. They are beginning to realise the benefits of living just a five or ten-minute walk from the office. The City is also coming alive after dark. Most of the wine bars stay open late and the infrastruc-

It's slick to live in the City and take a stroll to work. Amanda Loose reports

COMMUTING

ture is being put in place. Applicants vary from young City professionals to older high-powered businessmen or chairmen looking for a weekday pied-à-terre.

"It is something of a snowball effect. Once a person moves in they tell their friends and colleagues. And rents are slightly cheaper than in the West End: a good two-bedroom flat here will achieve about £300 a week, compared with around £450 a week for the same flat in Chelsea."

Nine of the buyers at 6-9 Bridgewater Square, for sale through Hamptons International and Knight Frank, bought the flats near the Barbican Centre so they were able to walk to work.

People were moving out of the City ten years ago, says Jonathan Vandermolen, at Blenheim Bishop, but now people who travel in

noticed a growing demand for properties in the City over the past three years: "We have four of five schemes there at the moment, whereas five years ago we would only have one at any given time."

"Any form of travelling by train, Tube or car is stressful, and any distance between your front door and the office an inconvenience."

WillowAcre is currently developing 14 flats at Prospero House in the Minories. Mr Glantz forecasts a shortage of residential accommodation in the City over the next year or so: "It is highly likely that when the current schemes are finished and sold, there will be few similar developments coming onto the market. But we believe that the demand will continue to rise."

"The investors who bought at Sovereign House are already receiving rental returns in excess of 12 per cent, a figure we believe may increase further as the demand continues to rise and the supply diminishes."

Canny speculators take note.

Expatriates return to find more than they bargained for

A growing number of expatriates are returning to Britain following the handover of Hong Kong to China and the more recent economic turmoil in South-East Asia. The average expatriate has been out of the country for at least two to ten years, during which time the changes that have taken place, especially in the residential property market, are enormous.

Robin Paterson, group managing director of the property agency Hamptons International, which sold nearly 3,000 properties last year, explains: "The first difference someone returning to live in Britain will see is a financial one. The asking price for a four-bedroom family house in Wimbledon, south London, would have been £300,000 a decade ago, or £175,000 for a house of similar size in Guildford, Surrey. Today the house in Wimbledon is priced at £595,000 and the Guildford home at £349,500."

That represents a sizeable increase in the cost of buying a house, even taking into consideration inflation over the past ten years and an increase in stamp duty from 1 per cent to 3 per cent.

Another area where expatriates will notice a significant difference is in the rental market, which has

GOING BACK

also seen a considerable rise in monthly rental costs: a four-bedroom family house in Esher, Surrey, has increased from £2,150 a month to £2,500, while a similar size house in Wimbledon has increased from £2,000 to £4,000.

"We are now beginning to notice that expats are becoming more cautious on their return to Britain and it is far more likely that they will rent for their initial six months back home," says Mr Paterson. "This is usually because people do not want to commit to a purchase in a particular area, or they might be uncertain about their long-term career prospects, having been out of the country for so long."

"In some cases it is simply because they may want to take time before making the purchase of a new house so soon after arriving back in the country."

Relocation advice to people on the move has also undergone a change in the standard and range of services available. Ten years ago the extent of relocation advice for the average company executive returning to Britain would have included a choice of three houses in

a certain location and an information pack from the company's human resources department.

Employers are now taking the lead and providing their workforces with a much greater level of support. Today, employees of multinational companies have an "orientation consultant" to advise them on legal and financial matters, rental agreements, where the best schools are, careers advice for their spouse and even quarantine laws affecting their pets.

"Companies used to own their own residential property portfolios, which was limiting to their staff. The trend is now to employ an intermediary to provide employees with a more comprehensive service," Mr Paterson says. "Our customers now demand a comprehensive service that will take on board all the worry of a major relocation or move back to Britain."

Hamptons, in a field that is becoming an ever more complex market for residential services, is developing its business with that in mind — and is now in detailed negotiations with a joint venture partner, with the aim of providing that comprehensive service.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN



A four-bedroom house in Wimbledon goes for £595,000 — ten years ago it would have cost £300,000

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New dawn: one of the homes built in the grounds of Henley Park, a Jacobean manor house being restored near Guildford in Surrey

The conservation couple

A Jacobean manor is being renewed thanks to a couple's hard work, says Amanda Loose

HENLEY PARK, a near-derelict Jacobean manor house near Guildford in Surrey, is being restored thanks to the development of 11 new houses and mews cottages in its grounds by the husband-and-wife team of Robert and Heather Cattle, of Hencaz Country Homes.

The Grade II house, dating from the 17th century, was empty for 20 years until the couple were approached two years ago by the chief conservation officer of Guildford council.

Mr Cattle says: "Henley Park looked a daunting task the first time we saw it. It was on its last legs, with no roof and several walls falling down, but we could see the potential. As an enabling development, the restoration of the main house at Henley Park and its conversion into four houses will be funded by the new buildings on the site."

The chief conservation officer, impressed by the results of a previous enabling development project in nearby Wanborough, asked whether Mr and Mrs Cattle would like to restore Henley Park. At Wanborough, the couple had rescued and restored the oldest barn in Surrey and given it as a museum to the local authority in return for permission to demolish 26,000 sq ft of redundant

agricultural buildings and to build seven new houses. At Henley Park, the Cattles, working with local conservation and planning officers, plus their own team of workers, architects and a structural engineer, used as many of the original bricks and fittings as possible.

After two years and much hard labour, the end is in sight at Henley Park: the couple hope that work will be completed on the main house by next spring.

The 27-acre site was once a medieval royal park, and the manor house is thought to have been built by Sir John Glyne, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the middle of the 17th century, funded by profits from his successful legal career. Towards the end of the 1700s, Henley Park

was bought by the Halsey family, who kept it until 1926. By 1941, it was the headquarters of the Vokes Group of companies.

Properties on the site have been snapped up since the launch last month. Five are already sold, including one of the manor house properties. And although he acknowledges that the restoration and conversion was "tricky", Mr Cattle is on the lookout for similar projects. "Enabling developments allow us to rescue properties in lovely settings, underpin the project financially and have the opportunity to give a building new life for hundreds of years," he says.

Another current Hencaz project is to build one of the largest houses on the Wentworth estate in Surrey, on the site of Kingsbourne, the house once rented by the Duchess of York. Hencaz demolished the existing house and is constructing a 14,000 sq ft property on the site, which is for sale through Knight Frank for £6 million.

Browns in Guildford is handling the sales at Henley Park (01483 531 166); prices for properties in the manor house start from £355,000; new detached houses from £495,000 and mews houses and cottages from £255,000.

Many parts of Britain have suffered some of their worst flooding in years. Eve-Ann Prentice reports on the storms

How to survive after the deluge

An Englishman's home may be his castle, but one insidious invader has robbed thousands of homeowners of their most precious possessions in the past few weeks, and seems set to cause more ruin in future. The seemingly unstoppable foe is floodwater.

With parts of Britain suffering their wettest October on record last month, and predictions that global warming will make the country even stormier in years to come, floods are likely to become an ever-greater threat to our homes.

Even now, as this winter has barely started to tighten its grip, thousands of householders have suffered flood damage — with all the misery of sodden carpets, lack of electricity and gas, foul-smelling sludge and the loss of treasured belongings such as family photo-

graphs. And the outlook is even bleaker. A report published by the UK Climate Impacts Programme has predicted that Britain will suffer ever more severe winter storms, along with hotter summers, over the next 80 years.

The financial cost of this autumn's deluge has already reached hundreds of millions of pounds, while the toll in human suffering — especially for those living in the worst-hit areas of Wales and the Midlands — is incalculable.

Flood victims in Wales may be particularly hard-hit, as nearly a third have no home insurance. This is below the national average — in Britain as a whole, one in four households has no home insurance. Malcolm Turling, of the Asso-

ciation of British Insurers, says that insurance premiums are unlikely to be affected by the latest floods, unless flooding continues through the winter.

So who is most at risk, and what can you do to help protect your home from disaster? Obviously, some areas of the country are more prone to flooding than others (see map), though few people would choose where to live on the basis of this. Londoners living near the Thames used to be in fear of a drenching when high tides were coupled with strong winds, but the Thames Barrier has removed that threat. The barrier is just part of 24,000 miles of flood defences now in place in England and Wales.

Even if you do live in a flood-risk region — and these are likely to increase in the coming decades — there are precautions you can take.

"When a storm is imminent, if you can, think about moving easily damaged items above flood level," says Malcolm Turling of the Association of British Insurers. "Remember to move electrical items, as these will be ruined by water, and make sure that you have no loose roof tiles. If an insurance company finds that a house is poorly maintained, it may well not compensate fully for all the damage."

Buildings with thatched roofs may look more vulnerable to rain, but are probably at least as waterproof as tiles. "Generally, thatched roofs are no more at risk than tiled ones," says Christopher White, the chairman of the National Society of Master Thatchers. At least 75,000 buildings have thatched roofs in this country, 50,000 of them being listed buildings, and nearly all are in the southern half of the country.

The Environment Agency is responsible for issuing flood warnings across much of England and Wales, and it gives guidelines to homeowners on how to protect themselves. "The risk of flooding from rivers and the sea is with us all the time," the agency says. "It can happen very quickly, often with little warning." The organisation issues three categories of flood warning: yellow for threats to some low-lying farmland and roads near rivers or the sea; amber for isolated properties, roads and large areas of farmland; and red, which warns



When the rains came: a community devastated by floods in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Experts say such disasters will occur more frequently

about serious flooding likely to affect many properties, roads and large areas of farmland. The alerts are issued to the police, local authorities and the media. Sometimes warnings are given directly to those at risk. The agency also runs a special hotline, the Telephone Flood-call, on 0645 88 11 88, where all calls are charged at local rates.

If you hear that a flood warning has been issued, you should call the hotline, alert your neighbours and listen to the local radio station (preferably on a battery-operated radio, in case power supplies are cut). Farmers may need to move livestock and equipment to higher ground. If flooding is imminent, says the agency, you should move

people, pets and valuables to a safe place, taking warm clothes, food, a torch and battery-powered radio with you. Block doorways and airbricks with sandbags, which may be available from local authorities; and switch off gas and electricity supplies.

If the worst comes to the worst and your home is flooded, this is

what you should do after returning: get the gas and electricity checked before using them; boil all tap water until it is declared safe; if possible, avoid contact with floodwater, as it may be contaminated; and contact your insurers.

For more information, contact the Environment Agency on 0645 333 111 during office hours.



Holding back: the areas in light blue on the map depend on flood protection and land drainage works to enable the use of the land

It's not fire that scares you, it's smoke

WITH the recent spate of floods, many homeowners have been helped by their local fire brigade. Ian Goodfellow, who has worked as a fireman for more than 20 years, in several brigades, talks about some of the realities behind the job. He now works as a fire and training officer at the Ministry of Defence.

IF you live above the sixth floor in England, you will not get rescued because the equipment won't reach any higher. And if we can't subside the platform on the ground, we won't even get that high.

I was a long-distance lorry driver and was passing Bristol Fire Brigade HQ with my then wife when I saw a notice asking for recruits. My wife said "that's a job you could never do", so of course I applied — and they invited me for an interview. I was already a first-aid and had done junior rescue and they took me on. At the time I had long hair and a long beard and I had to have it all cut off, but taking the job was the best move I ever made.

We get many electrical fires. They are a big problem because you get lots of thick, black smoke. It's the fumes which are the problem, more than the flames. Once we were called to a house with a TV which had caught fire. It was just before Christmas and myself and my mate went in using breathing apparatus. There is a lot of noise in fires — bangs and crashes. Because of the danger of

Eve-Ann Prentice with the latest in her series on the secret lives of our everyday heroes

professional. We were called to a chip pan fire, for instance — you deal with that by turning off the heat, getting a damp tea towel, putting it across the fire. We turned up at one house and there was a hero from the police force who had not done this. He was sitting there with half a moustache and half his hair singed off.

Another time we were called to a boutique with rails and rails of clothes, and we could see flames at the back. So we got the hoses and were aiming at the flames — but it had absolutely no effect. In the end it transpired that the actual fire was behind a rail of clothes and what we were aiming at was the reflection of the flames in a mirror along the back wall.

When the Greenham Common protest against nuclear weapons was on, we were called out because the protesters were holding torches which were a fire hazard.

I am safety-conscious: I have a fire extinguisher in my house and I am forever going round switching off lights.

Every time you go to a shout, you feel frightened because you don't know what you will find. It is not the fire, 99 per cent of the time, it's the toxic fumes — and they can creep up on you.

Frightened? John Wayne, eat your heart out. People say to me I must be brave but no, it's not like that. It's exciting, driving big red lorries that go 'nur nur, nur nur, nur'.

hedge, I can still see the look on the little girls' faces.

I can still remember the first person I saw dead. A lady in her early sixties had literally roasted herself to death in front of the fire. From the back you could see her hair, but from the front you could see that her skull had slowly cooked away.

The worst part of the job is when children are involved. We were called to a motel fire in Avonmouth where two children had died. Their dad, who was a truck driver, had gone for a drink. It was ghastly because the superheated gases had exploded.

Of course there are amusing incidents. At Soho fire station, the crew was called to a brothel where there was a gent upside down, naked, facing the door and hanging from leg-cuffs, chained to the banister. He was so exhausted after his exploits that he couldn't haul himself up again to undo the locks. The girls couldn't manage to lift him, either, so they called the brigade.

We get everything, from someone superglued to a toilet seat to real tragedies. London's Burning has been very good, but you don't see what firefighters actually do; they are very dedicated and



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 1998

King George

Wapping

THORPE'S

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ion couple

was bought by the Hales family who kept it until 1926. By 1941 it was the headquarters of the Vokes Group of companies.

Properties on the site have been snapped up since the last month. Five are already sold including one of the most beautiful houses in the area. Mr Cantle is on the lookout for similar projects. "Enabling developments allow us to rescue properties in lovely settings, and we have the opportunity to give a new life for hundreds of years."

Another current project is to build one of the best houses on the site of the Kingbourne, the house owned by the Duchess of Devonshire. The house was demolished in 1870 and is being reconstructed on a 14,000 sq ft property on the site of the former house. The project is for sale through Knight Frank for £6 million.

Brown's in Guildford is handling the sales at Henley Park. The manor house was built in the 17th century. The manor house is being converted into a new development of houses from £495,000 and manor houses and cottages from £225,000.

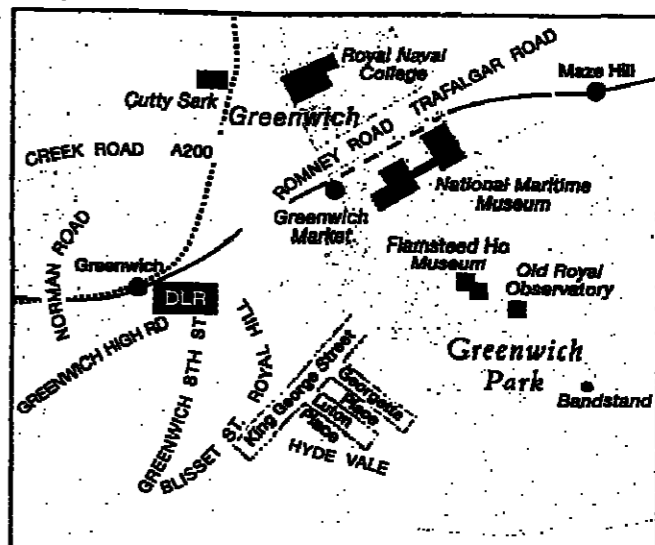
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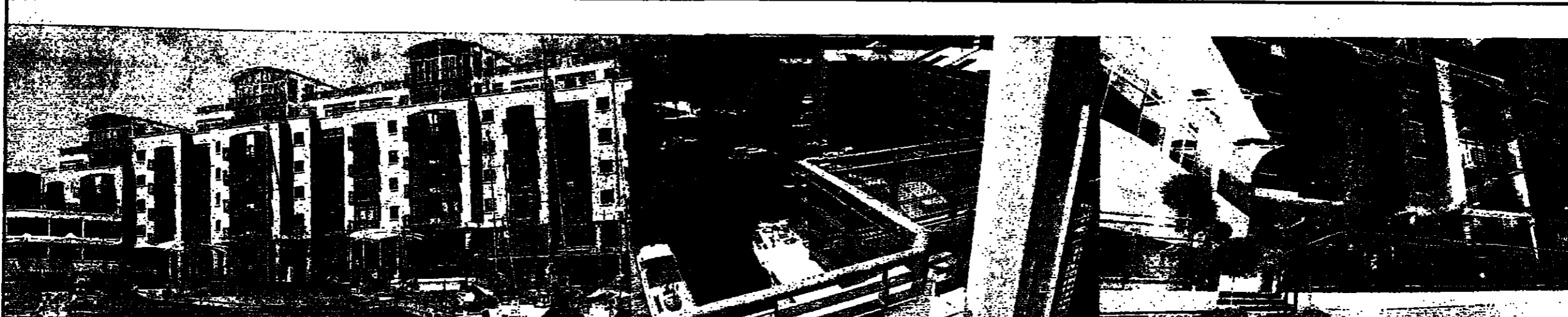


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Wealthy rock stars and computer whiz-kids are reshaping the top end of the housing market, says Jenny Knight

MILLION POUND CLUB

Million-pound house buyers are getting younger. Thirty-somethings now routinely stroll into estate agents' offices with a list of minimum requirements including swimming pools, acres of land, six bedrooms and a stable block. Many pay cash while the rest explain that they need only a small mortgage to take care of the last £100,000 or so.

Some want a home suited to a simple lifestyle of hard work and socialising: a two-bedroom penthouse in Central London with plenty of space, great views, top security and parking for two cars. When they hear the price tag, they don't blanch.

The bulk of Britain's most expensive homes used to be bought by people in their fifties, with one in ten going to the over-sixties. Now, according to statistics from Knight Frank, 55 per cent of buyers are in their forties, ten per cent are in their thirties and only 3.5 per cent in their sixties. And there is even a smattering of sales to men and women still in their twenties.

Foreign buyers account for a high proportion of £1 million-plus sales, and agents report that they, too, are getting younger.

Rupert Sweeting, of Knight Frank's country house department, says: "People used to aspire to a £1 million house and, after piling up their money for years, ended up buying a huge house, so that most buyers were in their fifties and sixties. Now people are making money younger and the age gap is dropping."

There is a smattering of young rock stars, sports stars and show-business people, but there are a number of amazingly young business successes, especially in the computer industry. These whiz-kids can sell out when they are still very young and make something like £40 or £50 million.

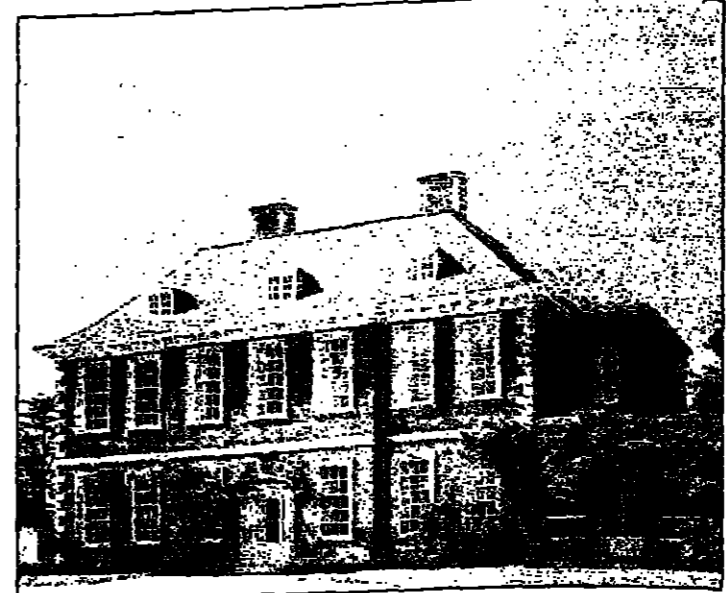
There are more millionaires in the UK than ever before and they are getting younger. Most like to buy country houses with lots of toys, like swimming pools, tennis courts, a cottage in the grounds and land. There has been an increase in fortunes made by people in sport, fashion, entertainment, advertising and publishing. These professions are dominated by younger businessmen and women.

Howard Elston, head of Strutt & Parker's Knightsbridge office, says: "It's not unusual any more to sell a £2 million house to someone in their mid-thirties. Single men and women in their early thirties might spend about £1.2 million on a flat, while those in their late thirties with children buy larger houses priced at £2 to £3 million."

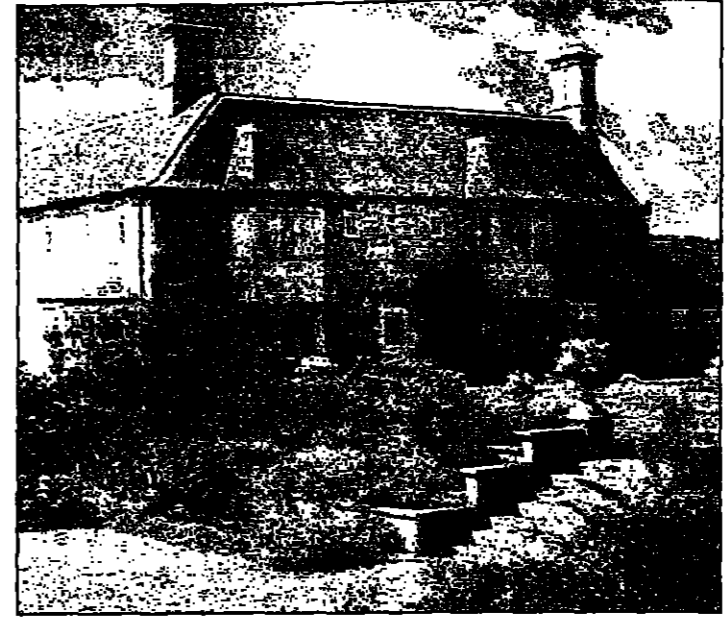
A lot of older people no longer want to live in London because it is too busy. "Most of the 60 to 70-year-olds we see in this office are selling up and leaving London," says Mr Elston. "Expensive areas like Belgravia and Knightsbridge, which 20 years ago were quite stiff and formal, are now dramatically different with a buzz and excitement which appeals to younger buyers."



Labour of love: stonemason Andre Vrona and wife Patsy worked for nine years on Heath House, near Stamford, above (dining room) and right, virtually rebuilding what was an almost derelict property



Stanhoe Hall, above, has lured the Vrona family to Norfolk



Young guns with loot to spare

One of the reasons for the rise of the youthful buyer in the £1 million-plus bracket is the effect of inflation on house prices. Even relatively modest homes can now easily top the £1 million mark.

Howard Elston, head of Strutt & Parker's Knightsbridge office, says: "It's not unusual any more to sell a £2 million house to someone in their mid-thirties. Single men and women in their early thirties might spend about £1.2 million on a flat, while those in their late thirties with children buy larger houses priced at £2 to £3 million."

John Denney, Hampton's country house director for Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, says that even returning expatriates, who used to return home to England in their late fifties or early sixties looking for a grand retirement home, are getting younger.

"Returning expats, many from South Africa, are now typically in their mid-forties," he says. "As far as age is concerned, everything has

come down a gear. The older age bracket is looking to capitalise on the good market — by scaling down to a smaller country place they can lock up and leave, with maybe a flat in town or a cottage abroad. Their large houses are being bought by much younger people. We now come across very wealthy 35 to 40-year-olds. We no longer see so much family money, but a lot more new money which is being made at a much younger age."

Noticeably, only a small minority of the £1 million properties are being bought by women. And Lottery winners are not well-represented. The ferocious cost of maintaining £1 million-plus homes means most Lottery winners simply haven't won enough to enter this market. While a brand new million-pound house will not need a penny spent on it for the first few years, grand period houses shurr up the money. "The bigger the house, the bigger

the bills," Mr Sweeting says. "You need a very different sort of income to live in a major house. We estimate the annual cost of living between £43,250 and £64,500. And it costs more to furnish a bigger house. The simple pine furniture and prints which might suit a cottage are a long way from the heirloom antiques and oil paintings that are a requisite part of a manor house lifestyle."

Knight Frank says even a farmhouse with four bedrooms and ten acres would cost up to £14,000 a year to run. This includes £3,000 for lighting and heating, £500 for water rates, £900 to £1,200 council tax, £500 security, £800 to £1,000 insurance, £3,000 to £4,000 on a gardener and cleaner, and £5,000 for annual maintenance. Running costs for an old rectory with six bedrooms could reach £21,900, while an eight-bedroom manor house can cost up to £64,000 a year.

CASE STUDY: NICO RENSCH

ARCHITECT and interior designer Nico Rensch, 40, has moved home five times in the past four years, progressively moving closer to the £1 million mark. He's on the move again, from a five-bedroom house, Cheynes Farm, in Cotterel, Hertfordshire, with paddocks, stables and a two-bedroom cottage.

"A million pounds still sounds a fascinating, big-time figure, but it is much more achievable nowadays," he says. "I work for clients whose homes have cost several millions. A recent client with a £2 million penthouse was in his mid-thirties."

Mr Rensch is house-hunting in Sussex for something suitable for his wife, two children, a horse, and four dogs. He intends spending 10 to 15 per cent on top of the purchase price on changes to the new house. "Cheynes Farm is a 500-year-old house, which seems a strange place for a modernist architect to live, but old houses were very simple and the two styles go together very well," he says.

The Rensch family is moving because he does a lot of work in Sussex and also because they feel they are not utilising the space they currently have. Cheynes Farm is priced at £875,000 (Strutt & Parker).

CASE STUDY: ANDRE VRONA

ANDRE VRONA is a £1 million-plus buyer at the age of 42, after turning his present home, Heath House near Stamford, into a million-plus property. He and his wife Patsy are moving to Stanhoe Hall, in Norfolk, a Grade I Queen Anne house priced at £1.25 million, located four miles from Burnham Market.

They have spent nine years turning Heath House into an attractive contemporary home with splendid gardens. It was nearly derelict when Mr Vrona bought it, prompted by magnificent views of open country.

"It would have fallen down if we hadn't bought it," he says. "The gardens were just a field but now they are open to the public and my pride and joy."

The L-shaped house has been virtually rebuilt, retaining the style of an impressive but simple farmhouse. There are stone-mullioned windows, stone fireplaces and wall panelling. The use of traditional materials and techniques has avoided any hint of pastiche. Mr Vrona, a stonemason, did most of the work himself.

"Quite a few who have looked at the house have been very young," he says. "Tastes used to be cultivated later in life, but these people are very discerning." Heath House is priced at £1.25 million (Strutt & Parker).



A superior interior

WHOEVER buys the £4.75 million apartment in Chesham Place, Belgravia, above — being sold through Knight Frank — will get the *haute couture* of interior design. Carole Langton, of Langton Interiors, who was commissioned to decorate this property, says that a classic mid-European look is the most likely to appeal to a buyer. "Anything too modern or trendy looks dated very quickly," she explains.

Generally she submits several design schemes to the developers before they decide on one. In the case of Chesham Place, she furnished it with antiques. The buyer can then purchase anything required to keep.

"We have sold the entire contents to new owners if they like the look," Ms Langton says. "Equally, we know that some clients get their own designers in and

change everything." The difference at this end of the interior design market is not just in being able to use the most expensive fabrics and antiques, but also in the additional attention to detail. Bathrooms even have chrome toothbrushes and perfumes — one, appositely, being Envy by Gucci. The fridges are full of champagne, and the flowers and fruit are changed daily.

Another Belgravia property decorated recently by Ms Langton is at 118 Eaton Square, formerly the Ski Club of Great Britain. There you will find Louis Vuitton suitcases in the dressing rooms and even a pair of riding boots.

After all, if you were paying more than £17 million for a 75-year lease, you probably would expect to have handmade curtain tiebacks.

Inside a designer's home

Katherine Bergen discovers how a tribal flavour can change your living room

Interior design gurus say that one of the questions most frequently put to them is "What does your own house look like?" In a new interiors book, published this month (*House Sensation*, Quadrille, £19.99), Anne McKeivitt bravely uses her home to illustrate how you can transform an interior.

Ms McKeivitt has gone native. She explains the inspiration for the tribal look: "I was influenced by a book of tribal portrait photography which strengthened my belief in the centuries-old need in humans for self-adornment and decoration."

"The images and influences in my living room are of a more primitive way of life, but adapted to enhance a sense of calm living in a 21st-century room. In other words, my aim was to forge a link between our organic roots and the manufactured." Ms McKeivitt warns against being dictated to by existing architec-

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ture. Her living room had once been four separate rooms — it takes vision to imagine how the space would alter after knocking walls through. She colour-blocked the walls, picking up on the charcoal and red, vegetable dye-painted facets of the tribal portraits. Buff willow screens, providing a change in wall texture, are reminiscent of African huts.

Veering away from Africa, the free-standing sculptures in her home remind her of the rocky outcrops and coastlines of her native Scotland. For more shape and texture, on a smaller scale, she has included cast-concrete pots and lava-stone urns. To complement it all, she has used classic furniture in graphic shapes, upholstered in fabrics in a mixture of neutral shades and brighter colours.

Ms McKeivitt's book is not confined to her

own property. There is a useful chapter on decorating rented space. As she points out, there are many restrictions on what you are allowed to do. Wall colours must remain the same, existing furniture cannot be tampered with and solid partitions cannot be built.

She advises a quick coat of paint — even one specified by the landlord — which can brighten up a tired, fading room. Remove any bad-taste objects and store in a cupboard, cover stain-covered sofas and armchairs with inexpensive throws or bed spreads. Ask the landlord if he would like the floorboards exposed and varnished instead of covered with a tatty carpet.

There's no point spending money on things you will have to leave behind so invest in removable fabric runners and wall hangings to change the space and mask unsightly objects.

In case you are baffled by builders' jargon, she also has a section defining such terms.



Culture clash: a mix of tribal photographs and modern furnishings is aimed at creating a sense of calm in Anne McKeivitt's home

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Luxury homes in the sun command high rentals when not in use by the family, writes Diana Wildman

How you can clean up in Spain

AS I supervised the emptying of the septic tank for the second time in two weeks I pondered on the advantages of owning property in Spain. A sledge-guipping tanker backed up to the manhole and the operative explained to me that the tank was divided into two sections — "sólido y líquido". That was enough for me to know. I felt that I was doing my duty as the president of the comunidad that runs the apartment block in Javea, Alicante.

In Spain, there is such a thing as "horizontal freehold". This enables you to own an apartment freehold. It also means that there is no freeholder to attend to the maintenance. So each apartment freeholder belongs to the community association that handles the day-to-day administration of the whole property.

The comunidad elects a president as legal executor of duties to do with the whole of the property. Usually there isn't much to do as we have handed over the administration to a property agency. But the smell of the sledge gulper brought home the responsibilities and duties to be discharged by El Presidente.

Everybody else was at the beach. I was supervising the discharge of the cesspit. Next, I had to go to the office of the Notario (a Spanish commissioner for oaths) to sign power of attorney to an agency representative. One of the apartment owners had not paid his comunidad rates for three years; the power of attorney would enable the agency to chase him through the Spanish legal system.

Earlier in the year the weather had taken a turn for the worse on the Costa Blanca. The roof had needed repairs before this, but the rain brought the point home. I had to direct repair operations by remote control from England. These are typical of the problems faced by owners of foreign property and the least likely to be considered by a prospective buyer.

These are my tips:

- Never buy or put a deposit on a property that is not finished. The Costas are littered with barely started developments, begun only in order to con deposits, or even the full price, out of buyers before the company goes bust.
- Never hand over money to anybody without going through an abogado (solicitor). British expatriates have a habit of taking "key money", that is, you give them the asking price and they give you the keys. You can live in a place for years on that basis. Problem is one day a strange man waving the escrow (deed) will demand that you leave his property and the police will make you.
- Conveying the deal through the abogado will ensure that the escritura will be recorded in your name at the Land Registry in Madrid. It is a slow process, but vital. If you do not uncover any undeclared charges attached to a property before you buy, you will be liable to pay them when they finally come due.
- Apart from all that, buying a place in Spain was one of the best things I have ever done.

STEPHEN BRENNAN



The 420-acre Parque da Floresta estate at the western end of the Algarve is close to fishing villages and beaches. Prices range from £115,000 to £225,000

Make profit at your leisure

SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Portugal and Spain have long attracted northern European property purchasers keen to acquire a holiday home in the southern sunshine. But simply buying a villa or apartment is not enough for today's buyers.

Leisure facilities such as golf and tennis, beach club and marina, not to mention a swimming pool, are a major consideration and the chance of substantial rental income is, for some prospective Iberian homeowners, an increasingly important factor.

The continuing weakness of the peseta currently at about 227 to the pound is encouraging investors from northern Europe to buy into purpose-built Spanish schemes. Although we all love the idea of a rural finca deep in the Sierras, in reality buying into a well-managed resort with ongoing rental income is a far more practical option for most of us.

The 4,000-acre Sotogrande Estate at the western end of the Costa del Sol is well renowned for its sporting facilities. These include three championship golf courses — one of which is Valderrama, venue for last year's Ryder Cup — tennis and racquet centres, two polo fields, two beach clubs and a marina.

Sotogrande SA is selling a variety of property, including two-bedroom marina apartments and townhouses from £90,000 to £220,000, detached villas from £300,000 and three-bedroom villa suites, being sold on a sale and lease-back agreement, adjoining the Almenara Hotel planned for completion within a year, for £170,000.

Nigel Smith, the managing director, plans to change Sotogrande into a self-contained leisure community and the company has its own year-round rental and management service.

Estate agent Denise White of White Real Estate, based within Sotogrande, advises clients that families paying £1,500 a week for a three-bedroom detached house with a pool in July and £2,000 per week in August demand a well-presented home with good furnishings, a modern kitchen with all appliances and a telephone/fax machine.

A two-bedroom beachside apartment is from £800 per week in August. Malaga airport is a 1hr 20min drive and Gibraltar a mere 15 minutes.

La Manga on the Costa Calida is a sporting complex par excellence and consists of numbers of purpose-built villages scattered among its 1,100 acres. Here Select Resorts have a variety of resale homes from £32,000 for a two-bedroom apartment in Bellaluz Village.

Next January La Manga's latest village, Los Olivos, being developed by Resort Properties, will start construction and will consist of 102 spacious two and three-bedroom apartments grouped around a central swimming pool within walking distance of the vast tennis and racquet centre. Prices are from £126,500

and reservations are being taken for off-plan sales with stage payments during construction. Select Resorts says that rents will be from about £850 per week in high season.

Facilities at La Manga include three golf courses, riding stables, water sports, a five-star hotel and a wide selection of boutiques, bars and restaurants.

A number of purpose-built residential schemes are being constructed in the rolling countryside near Lisbon, close to the historic towns of Sintra and Estoril. The newly completed motorway system now means the 1,200-acre Belas Clube de Campo, a golf and tennis development, is a mere 15 minutes from Lisbon airport and a ten-minute drive from both Sintra and the Atlantic beaches.

Around the completed 18-hole championship golf course at Belas some 240 spacious apartments are being built — all with balconies and facing south over two communal swimming pools towards the golf course. They range from one and two-bedroom properties at asking prices

of £100,000 and £165,000 to a seven-bedroom duplex penthouse complete with a private pool for £380,000. About 200 have already been sold.

For those keen on a detached fairway villa, half-acre plots cost £170,000 and Alex Boelho, Belos's sales director, says: "A package of plot and five-bedroom villa with swimming pool and double garage will cost around £400,000 with an 18-month completion date. Most buyers so far are Portuguese and we have two types of purchasers.

These are the retired, requiring a peaceful existence, and the forty-somethings with children, who need a good leisure home. We have a mini-market with laundry, tennis courts, a maintenance service and special green fees for owners and guests."

The 420-acre Parque da Floresta estate at the western end of the Algarve is close to fishing villages and sheltered sandy beaches. It boasts a leisure centre with swim-

ming pool complex, gymnasium, four tennis courts and a bowling green. There is an 18-hole golf course and a selection of bars and restaurants. Already 180 villas and golf homes have been completed and a further 95 will be available. Some two and three-bedroom homes are for sale now, priced from £115,000 and £225,000.

Andy Burridge, Parque da Floresta's marketing manager, says: "We guarantee a rental return to purchasers of £5,500 pa on a two-bedroom golf village house and £6,500 pa on a three-bedroom villa. We will also pay the running costs of the property for a year but purchasers are liable for their own taxes."

"In addition to the financial return owners are entitled to eight weeks' use of their property in a year, two weeks in high season and six weeks off-peak."

The 2,000-acre Quinta do Lago estate is extremely popular, not least because it boasts three golf courses and is a mere 20 minutes from Faro Airport. Set on 35 acres of a wooded hillside is its latest

scheme called Encosta do Lago which has established landscaping, a stylish clubhouse, tennis courts, pool and access to the golf courses on which owners and rental guests are entitled to a 25 per cent green fee discount.

Select Resorts are selling a selection of two and three-bedroom apartments priced from £153,000 to £225,000 plus a selection of villa plots at Encosta do Lago which will be completed towards the end of next year. A 25 per cent deposit is required on contract with stage payments through to completion.

Pauline Bonanni of Select Resorts says: "Rental income will be some £1,000 for a two-bed apartment and £1,200 for three-bedrooms during high season. The homes have broad terraces with views towards the wind-surfing lake and sea."

● **Belas 00351 1962 6110; Parque da Floresta 01223 316 820; Select Resorts 01202 291906; Sotogrande SA 0181 940 9406; Denise White 0034 956 795 699; Resort Properties 0034 968 175 000**

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Putting their trust in Blackheath

How has one inner London village retained its charm and elegance while others have been destroyed by distasteful development? Stephen Brennan reports

Later this month the Blackheath Preservation Society will offer a new form of protection to the architectural treasures of the hilltop east London village that bears its name. A new conservation order? Not at all: the village centre will get a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system to guard against vandalism and crime.

Due to be launched on November 21, it should bring peace of mind to the shopkeepers who have witnessed a rise in theft since criminals were driven out of bigger local shopping precincts by improved security measures.

The Trust made up a shortfall in the CCTV's funding as a gesture to mark its diamond jubilee celebrations, which began last month. This new-found involvement with security, however, is somewhat at odds with its natural instinct to take risks.

"With every project we do, the chairman says 'this one will make us bankrupt,' says Neil Rhind, the Trust secretary.

Few urban villages so close to the centre of town can match the elegance of Blackheath; but its preservation has been no accident. Sixty years of risk-taking by conservationists have paid off.

Blackheath became developed as one of the first stockbroker belts for the City of London at the turn of the 19th century. There was no railway then, so businessmen would take a coach to Greenwich and then a barge to the City.

From the heath, which adjoins Greenwich Park, there are spectacular views across London. These, plus the village's old world character - with names such as Tranquil Vale. The Paragon and Vanbrugh Castle - have tempted celebrities such as Glenda Jackson, Danny Baker, Ken Morley (of *Coronation*

PRESERVATION

Street (fame) and Tina Earnshaw (Oscar nominated for her make-up work in the film *Titanic*) to make it their home.

For the property buyer, Blackheath does not come cheap. A first-time buyer requiring a small, modern two-bedroom terrace house would have to part with upwards of £150,000, decent flats average £250,000, and recently a five-bedroom Georgian family house

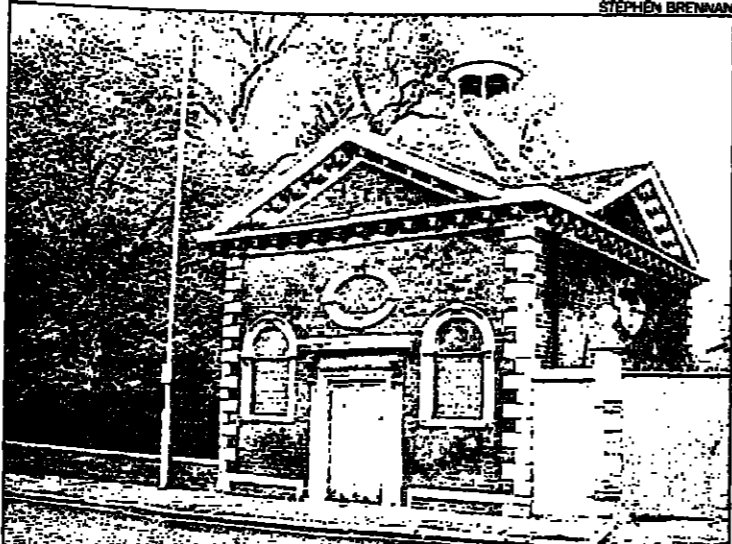
It is the only Grade I listed building in Lewisham and until 1998 was on the English Heritage buildings-at-risk register.

The Trust is seeking aid from English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust, a new charity, is being set up so that conditions of grant aid can be met. However, restoration work will be supervised by the Blackheath Preservation Trust.

The Trust was founded in 1939 by Alan Roger Martin and William

Davidge. A pioneering organisation, it had two prime goals: "to adapt existing buildings to modern uses and to conserve the present amenities in Blackheath; and to protect from dilapidation, disfigurement or destruction any building or place, in or near Blackheath, which is of beauty or historical interest."

The techniques that the Trust pioneered in the Thirties were then con-



Boone's Chapel in Lee High Road was probably designed by Wren

changed hands at £1.4 million. Many purchasers, however, might think the money well spent to live in a village where even the almshouse chapel was designed by Christopher Wren. Or was it?

The rescue of Boone's Chapel in Lee High Road, a Grade I listed building attributed to Wren and dating from 1683, is the Trust's latest project. Originally it was an almshouse chapel built for Christopher Boone, a citizen of the City of London, allegedly to the design of Wren.

Wren and Boone, both members of the Merchant Taylors Company, were good friends and historical detectives have concluded the chapel is almost certainly the work of Wren. It has been empty and not used for worship since the Forties.

considered novel, but have since inspired many similar organisations. The Trust sprang from the Blackheath Society, founded in 1937 by the distinguished woodcarver Douglas Percy Bliss. He was alarmed at the "un enlightened public and rapacious private enterprise" which was threatening to overtake the district.

By then, the best parts of Lewisham and Lee Green had already been destroyed by speculative development. The society and its creation, the Trust, were determined that Blackheath Village, then still less than a century old, would not be vandalised.

Martin and Davidge drummed up a fighting fund of £3,000 and set about saving the area using an untried tactic: buy up, secure, do up and sell on.

In this way, the Trust gathered momentum and became a signifi-



BROOKLANDS HOUSE was built by George Smith in 1826 when he was surveyor to the Cator family, the local landlords after whom the estate is named. Now its turret apartment is for sale at £199,950. Brooklands, used as a family house until 1918, passed into social club use and tennis courts were built in its large

grounds in the Thirties. The house was bought by the Blackheath Preservation Trust in 1983 - just in time, because it had been allowed to deteriorate from the Thirties to the Seventies. Now the building has been restored and the truncated grounds landscaped. The two-bedroom apartment features a luxury bathroom

and kitchen and is located on the first floor. The second bedroom, with balcony, is in the turret and a trap and retractable ladder leads to the second room in the turret. Original features include wooden blinds built in to the casements of the living room windows. Contact: *Winkworth*, 0181-852 0999.

cant landlord in its area. It has been largely through its efforts that Blackheath has kept its identity, while other areas have not.

Since its foundation, the Trust has rescued and restored many buildings with no public money. Most of them are now listed by the Department of National Heritage. The Trust owns five acres of woodland between Maze Hill and Vanbrugh Hill in Greenwich,

which it keeps as a wildlife sanctuary.

Its best-known properties include Vanbrugh Castle (Grade I, 1719), Blackheath Concert Halls (Grade II, 1895), Blackheath Railway Station (Grade II, 1848), The Cedars, Westcombe Park Road (1865), 3-9 Tranquil Vale (Grade II, 1845) and Poplar Cottage, Charlton Road (Grade II, part late-15th, part late-17th century weather-boarded cottage).

Its most recent completed scheme was the Blackheath Art Club (1885) at 47 Bennett Park. The building once housed the GPO film studios (where *Nightmail* was made in 1936, and *Target For Tonight* in 1942).

The Trusts repaired the building and converted it into 11 one and two-bedroom apartments, which were sold on long leases.

As part of the jubilee, Mr Rhind says: "We sponsored a seminar on historic building management with the Association of Building Preser-

vation Trusts. We had about 50 people from preservation trusts from all over the country. We had speakers including some senior people from English Heritage and held a reception at Blackheath Concert Hall."

He describes the Blackheath Concert Halls as "probably our finest hour - but I think every project we get involved in is the most exciting, and then when it's done we're on to the next one, another challenge." Neil Rhind: 0181-315 5692.

Parents with children at boarding school need nearby homes, says Diana Wildman

RURAL PROPERTY

Long gone are the times when parents bade a tearful farewell to their young offspring at the gate of a rural boarding school knowing the family would not meet again until the half-term exeat. Today's parents are expected to participate fully in many aspects of the school curriculum. Pupils seem to have free time virtually every weekend and the expectation is that they will go home.

As so many of top public and prep schools are set in beautiful locations, many parents are considering investing in a second home near the chosen school. Stephen Kingsley, 45, a solicitor, and his wife Jennifer, who live in Kensington, have two sons, Thomas, 12, and Patrick, nine, who board at Horris Hill prep school in Newbury. Last month they bought a five-bedroom, 18th-century mill house in two acres by the River Lambourn in the village of Donnington, West Sussex, which, when the new A34 opens, will be only ten minutes' drive from their son's school.

Mr Kingsley says: "When Thomas first boarded, we bought a cottage near Salisbury, but this proved impractical because it was a two-hour return journey to the school and too small for entertaining. So we sold it and rented while searching for our precise requirements. The plan is to keep the Mill House for at least the next five years until Patrick leaves Horris Hill; but everything is flexible these days. Thomas is going to Eton next year but can easily get to Newbury by train from Slough - just a 30-minute journey."

"Jennifer and I drive from London on Friday evenings and the boys simply love being in their new home 20 minutes after I pick them up. Spending up to four hours each weekend ferrying the boys back and forth before returning to London - as we used to - is not fun. We bought a large house and we plan to spend a lot of the school holidays plus half-terms there."

The Kingsleys bought their home through David Milligan of Knight Franks Hungerford office for more than £700,000. Mr Milligan says: "Concepts have changed over the past ten years and parents are expected to participate in a child's boarding-school education. Several parents were considering buying a country home, anyway, so it makes sense for them to buy as close to their child's school as possible."

"Marlborough College has a number of parents who own either a town house within walking distance or a cottage in the surrounding Wiltshire countryside. A classic example is Primrose Cottage, a pretentious four-bedroom village house complete with heated swimming pool



Four-bedroom Primrose Cottage, at £365,000, is ideal if your children attend Marlborough College

Easy terms available with country houses

and double garage in Shalbourne, a conservation area nine miles from Marlborough. The asking price is £365,000. For parents wanting to let during summer holidays, Primrose Cottage could fetch £500 a week.

Charles Yeoman of Strutt & Parkers' Harrogate office deals with inquiries from parents with children at Ampleforth in North Yorkshire, Sedburgh. Will Carling's *alma mater* in Cumbria, and prep schools, including Bramcote in Scarborough. Though school fees are the same as in southern England, a two-bedroom cottage can be bought at a fraction of the price. Mr Yeoman says: "A small terrace cottage near Sedburgh on the edge of the Lake District can cost £75,000 and could be let for between £200 and £300 in the prime holiday season. The same size cottage in Ampleforth would cost more than £100,000 and the summer rental would be the same."

With so many good boarding schools in and around Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, the Cotswolds attracts families seeking a

country home in a delightful location, yet close to schools.

Derek Lewis, a partner with the City law firm Theodore Goddard, and his wife Bridget, who live in Richmond, Surrey, have recently sold their four-bedroom house in the Cotswold village of Weston Subedge and have bought a two-bedroom period cottage in nearby Laverton, paying £185,000 through Hayman Joyce, a local agent.

Their daughter, Sarah-Jane, was at St Mary's, Wantage, and their sons, Christopher and James, attend Radley College near Oxford. As James comes to the end of his schooling and the two elder children no longer weekend regularly with their parents, the family's needs have changed.

Mrs Lewis says: "We inherited the house, a 45-minute drive from Oxford, six years ago, which made it much easier to bring the children out at weekends. We had been considering buying for a long time before that. We now love the area so much that we have decided to keep a country base here long-term."

"We found that we were at one school or the other every weekend to watch the boys in matches, meet the teachers or just to take the children out to tea on non-exeat weekends. Having a country base close to the schools transformed our weekends."

Cheltenham has several world-renowned public schools, including the Ladies College. Earlier this decade, its then headmistress marketed her school in the Far East and attracted a lot of pupils from Hong Kong.

According to Lynn Simmonds of Hamptons, many parents have bought a town centre apartment as a UK base, which they use for several months of the year.

"They buy to lock up and leave so they look for good security and parking," she says. "Proving popular are the new mock-Regency apartment blocks built by Beaufort. A typical two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment costs about £220,000."

Bath fears it could drown in own waters

Beneath the elegant, unruffled Georgian foundations of Bath, something is stirring. Millennium plans to restore the remains of five sacred Roman spas are causing concern that the extra visitors they will entice to the city centre will spell extra congestion.

The re-opened spas will not just be museum pieces. Visitors will pay up to £14 for two hours of refreshing therapy in the calm of the sensitively rebuilt pools and treatment rooms. These new Elysian Fields will be clad in designs by the acclaimed architect Nicholas Grimshaw. But with Bath already flooded by tourists will the £20 million Bath Spa Project, bringing an estimated 600 more visitors every day, really benefit residents?

Malvin Tyler, who owns a computer hardware company and lives in a house in The Circus after moving from London, is used to large numbers of visitors peering through his ground-floor windows as they pass by.

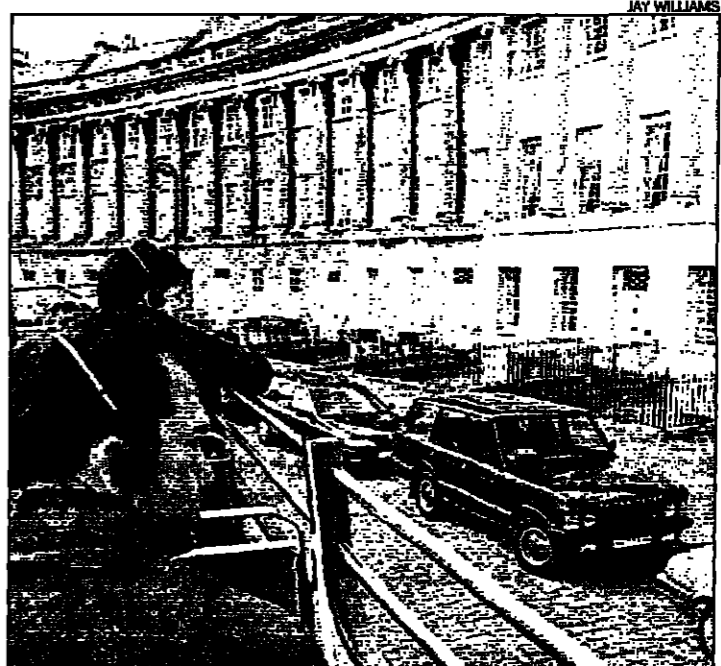
"We wave back at them, there's no problem. But I'd like to see tourist coaches switching to natural gas: some of them are 30 years old and belch out black gas in your face, which isn't too good for us or the drivers. To switch would be a reasonable compromise."

Comments such as these temper his overall support for the project, which is expected to start in earnest in spring next year, with Dutch spa operator Thermasol working closely with Bath council to make the venture a success.

John Croft, who lives in Circus Mews, regrets that some of the members of the Circus Residents' Association, many of whom are retired, have a negative response to the spa project.

"This may change when it gets underway," he says. "An environmental grounds the association, of which he is chairman, finds the extra numbers of tourist coaches it will bring into the city objectionable. 'There needs to be more priority for pedestrians,' he says. 'We're rather overrun by these lumbering buses, this is a hilly city and it's not easy for disabled people. It's got to be better organised.'"

Comments such as these on a range of initiatives spurred Bath residents to form a federation of resident associations ten years ago. William Bloomfield, its chairman, leads no fewer than 18 groups with a catchment of about 20,000 people. While very supportive of the project's goals he longs for the day when there will be an integrated public transport system, and ur-



Traffic congestion in Bath from tour buses is already acute

pollution

gently wants to see all cars out of the city's premier shopping zone, Milsom Street.

"The pollution in the city is acute," he says. "The pavements overflow at busy times. Bath council is always crying wolf about its finances yet it owns the city centre and is always commissioning reports from outsiders. I am not anti-council but some of the decisions come from the wrong people."

Mr Bloomfield is confident new transport links within the city will be in place when the spa project is ready, but is frustrated by the time it takes to get replies to letters written to the council. "Bath needs this project. Why can't all the councillors be behind it?"

John Cowley, senior partner at estate agent Crisp Cowley in Stall Street, says he is not a city centre resident. "And I would not want to be," he says. "The number of tourist coaches - about 28 - going through the city all the time is excessive - six would be quite enough. On the other hand, I know people who like living in the centre. As for the impact on property prices, I don't think more congestion will lead to an adverse effect."

Less convinced is Simon Waterfield, a commercial property agent. "More traffic will be a disadvantage to Bath. I've noticed how things have got worse in the last six

years. All this won't help the residential market, or any other business which isn't connected to the tourist trade."

Like Mr Bloomfield, Mr Waterfield believes the plans deserve recognition. But he doubts whether local people will make much use of the pools and treatment rooms priced at the lower end of the scale. "The new buildings will be interesting to people who like Roman remains and who come for the day," he says.

Bath council estimates the project will inject another £5m every year into the local economy. In her essay *Holy Water*, the writer Joan Didion wrote that pools are "a symbol not of affluence but of control over the uncontrollable". Like the Romans before, Bath's city fathers are seeking to exploit their resources in a controllable, orderly fashion, harnessing teams of experts to give them an edge in tourism's competitive arena.

But the environmental price of this may be high, and unpleasant for those residing within this humid bowl of the Cotswolds. There are already worrying signs of wear and tear to parts of the historic city - even to its most famous architectural landmark.

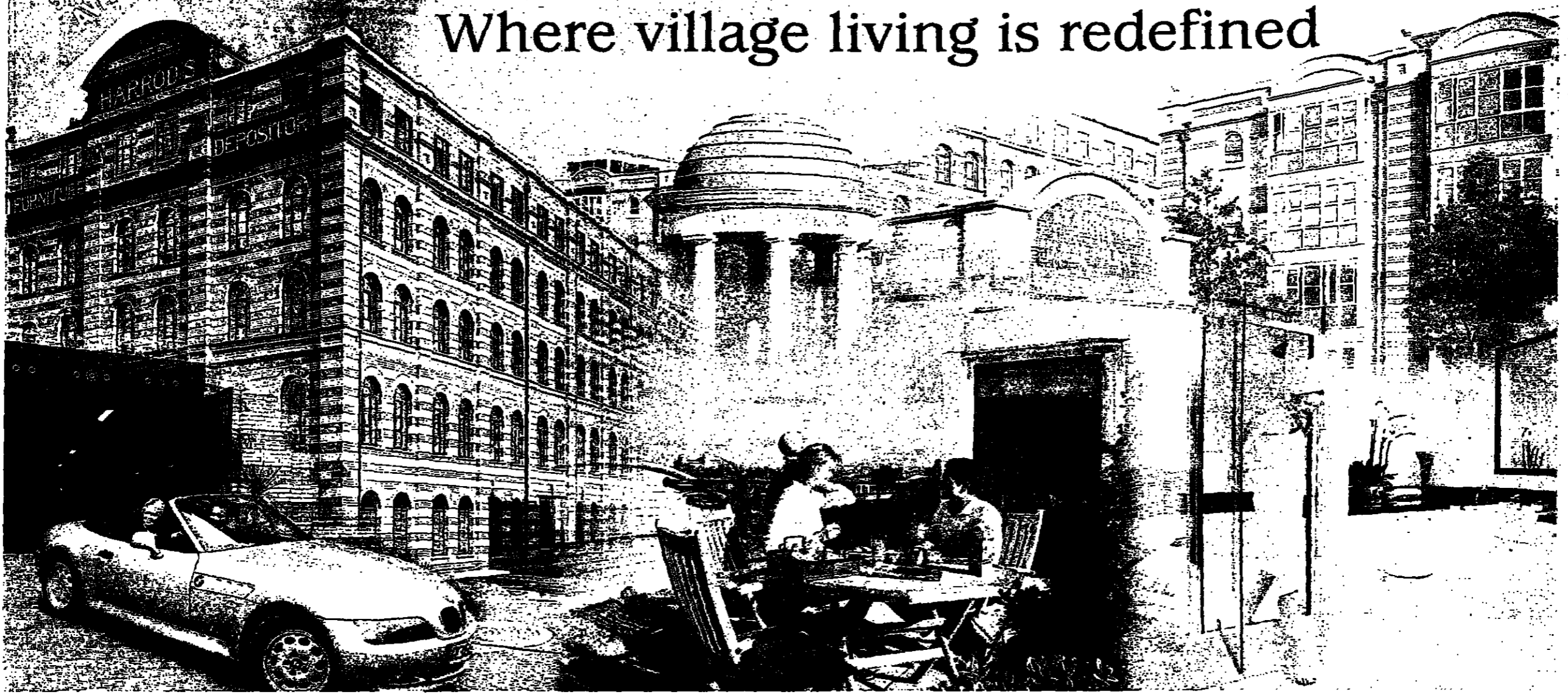
The fine stone and wrought-iron fences of the Royal Crescent need repairing. It is possible that increasing numbers of visitors will take the glow off living in such a beautiful city.

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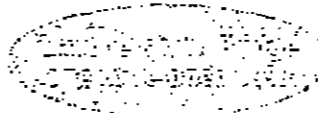


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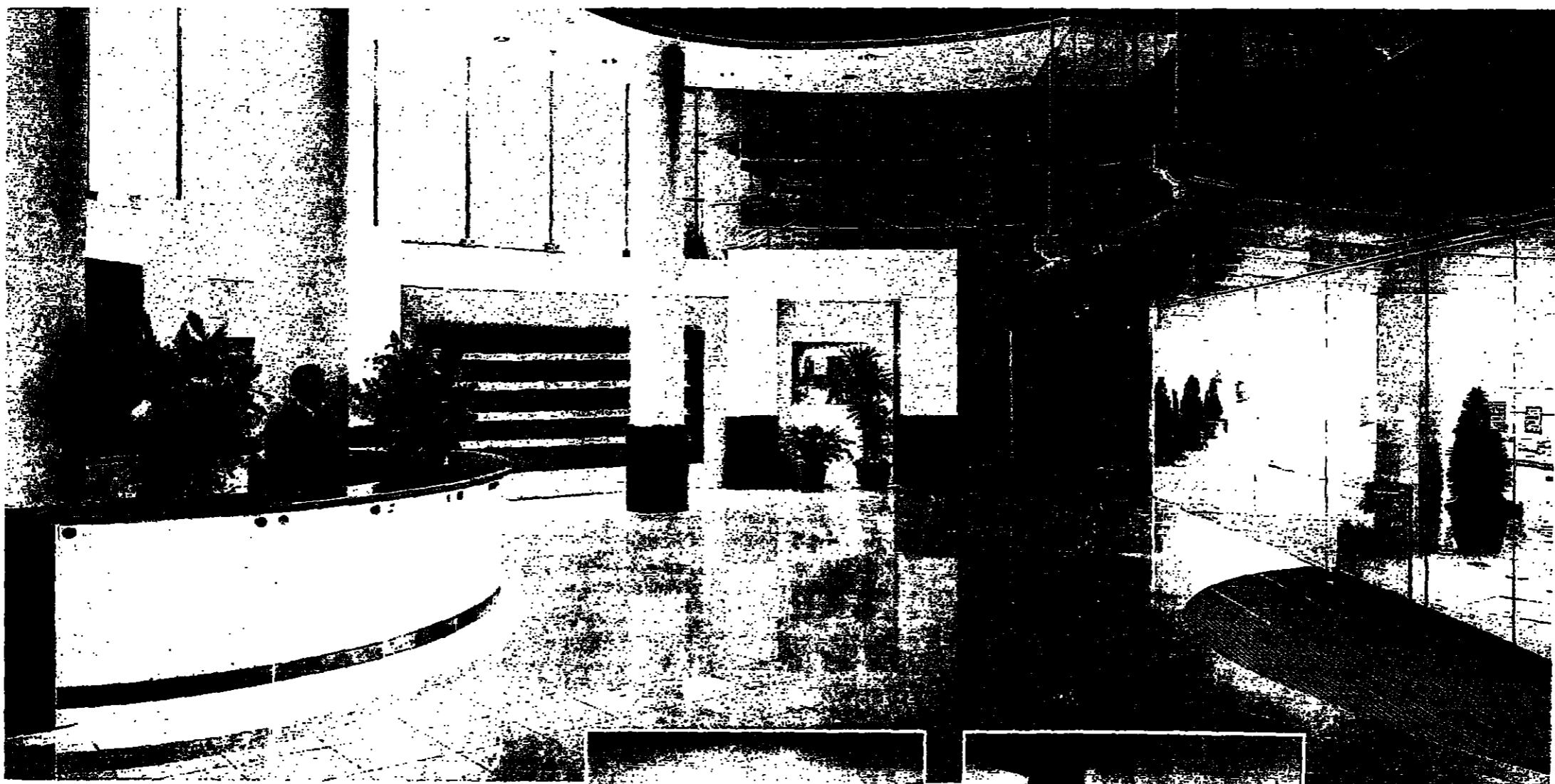
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